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PRC ARMY DELEGATION BEGINS 6-DAY VISIT

Delegation's Arrival

PY122342 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1915 GMT 10 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Oct (TELAM) -- A PRC Army delegation, headed by Deputy Army Chief of Staff Chi Haotian, arrived in the country this afternoon for an official visit which will last until next Thursday. The members of the delegation are Chi's wife Mrs (Jiang Qingping); Mr (Jiang Naicheng), deputy chief of the American and Oceanian Affairs Division of the Foreign Affairs Bureau; Mr (Guan Qinghua), deputy chief of the armored equipment division, and interpreter (Du Yingtian). They were received at Ezeiza International Airport by Brig Gen Edgardo Calvi, deputy army chief of staff; Col Jesus Cornejo, director of the Army General Secretariat; Col Eduardo Gorleri, and Mr (Li Kuichun), PRC military, naval and air attache to Argentina. They made no statements at the airport but left for the No 1 Patricios Regiment, where they will be received by Gen Antonio Vaquero, chief of the unit, who will release a report on the activities to be carried out by the PRC delegation.

Meetings, Ceremonies

PY131559 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Oct (TELAM) -- Argentine Army Commander Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri today held a meeting with PRC Deputy Army Chief of Staff Chi Haotian. The foreign military officer, who has been in Argentina since last Saturday with the objective of strengthening ties between the Argentine and PRC Armed Forces, met with Galtieri for almost 40 minutes during which they discussed issues pertaining to the relations of both armies.

Later Chi Haotian held a meeting with Argentine Navy Chief of Staff Vice Adm Gabriel Vigo and with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen Hipolito Mariani in the respective offices of these high-ranking Argentine officers.

At 1000 the PRC general and his entourage honored Gen Jose de San Martin in a ceremony held at the plaza named after the Argentine hero. Also present at the ceremony were soldiers of the San Martin Grenadiers and the deputy armed forces chief of staff, Gen Norberto Calvi. After a protocol meeting with the defense minister, Rear Adm Norberto Couto, Chi Haotian attended an army chief of staff meeting presided over by its chairman, Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero. At 1300 Vaquero will honor the foreign military leader with the Argentine Army medal during a ceremony to be held at the Libertador Building.

PRESS AGENCY REPORTS ON PRC ANTARCTIC PLANS

PY130229 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2010 GMT 12 Oct 81

[Text] Beijing, 12 Oct (TELAM-LATIN-REUTER) -- PRC official sources disclosed today that this country is planning in sending a scientific expedition to the South Pole and wishes to establish a permanent base in the Antarctic as soon as possible. According to the official XINHUA agency, the PRC authorities have asserted that Beijing has been discussing its plans with Argentina, Chile, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, France and Japan for several years. The authorities did not state when the expedition would leave.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S. RELATIONS, OTHER ISSUES

PY131222 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Oct 81 p 31

["Excerpts" of interview with Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro by Flavio de Almeida Salles, Aloysio Santos and Guilherme Costa Manso; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] FOLHA: Will the death of As-Sadat bring major changes in the Middle East?

Saraiva Guerreiro: We see no reason to predict any special change. The Middle East problem exists and there is no way to establish a stable situation without including those points we have indicated: withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, the return of the Palestinians, the formation of a Palestinian state, and, naturally, respect for the institution of secure borders by all states of the region. The peace negotiations have always been difficult. Therefore, in view of the above we have never supported the Camp David agreements, though we do not criticize them either.

FOLHA: What will happen in Cancun following the statement made by President Reagan in which he makes clear that each country must seek to solve problems through its own efforts?

Saraiva Guerreiro: The simple fact of the Cancun conference shows that there is a process: The new U.S. administration is ready to negotiate, to admit that there is a problem and that it has a political priority which cannot be overlooked.

President Reagan has given indications of what his position will be in Cancun, a position which is not the position of the developing countries and perhaps is not in line with the position of other developed countries. Regarding what could be achieved, I do not believe it will be much, but I feel that some ideas will be accepted even by the U.S. people, and one of these ideas is that the developing world is a dynamic factor in the world economy, that it is a very good thing for the developed countries because it involves an expansion of the market.

FOLHA: U.S. Vice President George Bush will arrive in Brazil on Wednesday. Is he going to talk about nuclear issues?

Saraiva Guerreiro: The agenda is free and that means all subjects can be included. We talk with U.S. officials on a continuing basis and there are no secrets among us. In addition, the general situation of relations is good, and the existence of disagreements is normal. Regarding the nuclear issue, there are points to be resolved but there is no impasse in the sense that the subject has been pigeonholed. We are ready to talk. They know our position just as we know their difficulties, including the problem of U.S. domestic law on the issue. However, neither side has closed the door to a continuation of talks.

FOLHA: But is the nuclear issue very urgent?

Saraiva Guerreiro: Now we have the alternative (of purchasing enriched uranium from URENCO to fuel Angra I), but even with that alternative we want to maintain this channel of relations with the United States.

FOLHA: The United States has suggested a treaty for the defense of the South Atlantic. What is the Brazilian position on defending the petroleum route?

Saraiva Guerreiro: This subject is not being discussed with the United States. The South Atlantic is a priority subject for Brazil. It is even more a priority for us than for the United States.

We feel that the petroleum supply route will only be in danger in extreme cases, it would practically need to be a world war. And in that case, in case of a world war, it will probably and strategically be more logical to suspend the supply of petroleum by occupying the petroleum-producing area. Then the South Atlantic would be a high priority area. However, we do not see it from the point of view of security or of military action, but from a political standpoint. Our whole foreign policy in relations to that region aims precisely at creating confidence in the countries on the other side of the Atlantic.

FOLHA: But are there understandings with the Angolan Government, for instance, to prevent the establishment of Soviet bases in Angolan ports?

Saraiva Guerreiro: No. The very Constitution of Angola forbids the installation of foreign bases in its ports. In the same way that there is no interest on the part of Angola in becoming a base for attacks on Brazil, there is no interest in becoming a base for attacks on the petroleum route. No. This is not the interest of Angola.

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S RECOVERY SATISFACTORY

PY140117 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Excerpt] President Joao Figueiredo today completed his recovery period at the Gavea Pequena residence in Rio de Janeiro. We will now hear a report from the Gavea Pequena residence by reporter (Otavio Delfim).

[Begin (Delfim) relay] President Joao Figueiredo spent his last day at the Gavea Pequena residence without being able to leave the house. Although it has not rained in Rio de Janeiro, the very cloudy weather and the cold have prevented the president from taking a walk around the residence's gardens, which is an exercise which the doctors treating him consider very good for his recovery.

Despite the (?lack) of exercise, President Joao Figueiredo's recovery is progressive according to the results of the medical tests which he underwent this morning.

Since he was unable to leave the Gavea Pequena residence due to the threatening weather, the president carried out his routine activities. He woke up early, read the newspapers, watched the recorded television programs and then had a long rest in the afternoon.

REPORTAGE ON POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

For Warsaw media coverage of the visit to Brazil by Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jozef Czyrek, and the joint communique on the visit, see pages 26-28 of the Poland section of the 9 October Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON INCREASING TERRORIST ACTIVITY

Interior Ministry Communique

PY131547 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Text] This is communique No 008 released by the Interior Ministry:

This afternoon the cabinet approved a state of emergency in the Provinces of Huanca, Lamar, Huamanga, Cangallo and Victor Fajardo suspending the individuals guarantees contained in clauses 7, 9, 10 and [word indistinct] of Article 12 of the Constitution for 60 days starting today. The decision is based on clause A, Article 231 of the Constitution.

The cabinet made this decision due to the terrorist actions being carried out in Ayacucho Department, particularly the attack against the civil guard post in El Tambo, Lamar Province, last night. People died and others were wounded in the attack. A civil guard, a civilian who was in the post and a boy accompaning him were killed. The attackers took three machineguns and three revolvers. They freed four persons under arrest, two of them on charges of drug trafficking.

Officials will be in charge of enforcing this decree and the police forces will be in charge of carrying out appropriate actions with the necessary support from the various sectors. Interior Ministry Communications Department. Lima, 12 October 1981

Curfew in Ayacucho Department

PY140132 Paris AFP in Spanish 0111 GMT 14 Oct 81

[Text] Lima, 13 Oct (AFP) -- A curfew has been imposed in the five provinces of Ayacucho Department, in the southeast Andean region of Peru, which were declared on a state of emergency last Monday because of serious terrorist acts. It was learned here tonight that the curfew is in force from 2200 to 0500 local time.

Ayacucho Reservoir Attack

PY131653 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Excerpt] We have been informed that two Republican Guards, who were guarding the Ayacucho water reservoir, were attacked and tied up by six individuals, including a woman, armed with revolvers. One of the policemen was seriously wounded. The attack took place at 1900 last night. Republican Guard (Domingo Loyola), 20, was shot three times -- in the face, arm and left hand. He is in serious condition and will be evacuated to Lima today. The other guard, (Jose Alfredo Dominguez Guerrero), 21, was not hurt. He was able to escape and report the attack. This event took place only 23 hours after another attack on the police.

President on Increasing Terrorism

PY132216 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1639 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Text] Lima, 13 Oct (LATIN-REUTER) -- At the same time that his government suspended individual guarantees in a southern Andean province, President Fernando Belaunde Terry admitted that terrorist activities are increasing in Peru. A group of unidentified individuals last night attacked a police post in El Tambo, Ayacucho Province [as received], some 575 km south of this capital, and after murdering three persons, among them a policeman, seized arms and ammunition.

A communique issued by the Council of Ministers stated that a state of emergency had been ordered and that [constitutional] guarantees have been suspended in that province "in view of the acts of terrorism" which disrupt "the nation's peace and domestic order."

This is the second time that a police post in Ayacucho has been attacked resulting in the death of a civil guard (uniformed policeman).

Last night during a meeting with journalists to whom he explained the measures being adopted, Belaunde stated that "the outbreaks of terrorism are becoming more serious and we cannot accept this with indifference."

Numerous acts of sabotage and attacks against high tension towers, embassies, government buildings and police stations in Lima and cities in the interior of Peru have been taking place for over a year now.

Interior Minister Jose de la Jara has claimed that the members of the pro-Maoist Shining Path group are responsible for these attacks. The members of this group claimed authorship of the attack against the U.S. Embassy and against U.S. companies.

The president stated that during the attack against the police post four individuals charged with drug trafficking had been freed, and he did not rule out the possibility that activists from "foreign countries" could be involved in the attack.

Belaunde assumed the presidency in July 1980 and this is the first time that his government has decreed a state of emergency and suspended the [constitutional] guarantees in a province, after approximately 700 cases of sabotage and attacks have been registered throughout the country according to official reports.

During the past 3 weeks unidentified individuals dynamited two high tension towers, leaving Lima and four important industrial cities in the interior without electricity as well as cutting Lima's communications with northern Peru.

Last night a report by a Lima television station stated that after attacking the police post in Ayacucho the individuals looted a nearby town where they killed two children. There was no official confirmation of this incident.

A special envoy of television channel 5 stated that during the attack on the police in El Tambo the criminals threw acid in the face of the guard on duty as they entered the building where they destroyed the facilities and that they then fled into the woods.

The suspension of guarantees implies restrictions on the free transit of people and vehicles, prohibits the holding of public meetings and authorizes the police to make arrests without the need for a court order.

MINISTER PLANS COMPLAINT IF U.S. SELLS SILVER

PY131752 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has announced that Peru will submit a protest to GATT if the United States insists on selling its silver reserves. Kuczynski said that Peruvian Ambassador to Washington Fernando Schwalb will deliver a note to the U.S. Government reminding it that according to a treaty there is an agreement by which prior consultation is required to sell accumulated mineral reserves.

If a bilateral agreement on the sale of silver reserves is not reached, we will submit a complaint because the sale will greatly affect the market, said Kuczynski. He added that Peru has proposed to the United States, in case it decides to sell its reserves, several alternatives to prevent our country from getting hurt. Kuczynski made these remarks during a conversation with reporters at Jorge Chavez Airport after returning from a tour of the United States and Europe.

EL PAIS REPRINTS INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ALVAREZ

PY082230 Montevideo El PAIS in Spanish 3 Oct 81 p 11

[Exclusive 16 September interview granted by President Gregorio Alvarez in Montevideo to journalist Israel Rabinowicz of the Israeli weekly (TIME) of Tel Aviv in two parts. In the first part President Alvarez answers a questionaire and in the second part he and National Public Relations Bureau Director Alberto Larroque are interviewed]

[Text] [Question] Are the dates and guidelines which define this latest stage of the Uruguayan process and which have been well received by the public fully supported by the armed forces?

[Answer] Certainly, but in order to better understand it, it is necessary to review the development of the entire process and go back to December 1980. The civilian-military government of that time, made up by a president and the junta of commanders of the armed forces -- in view of the result of a referendum -- said that "the process of democratic institutionalization will continue irreversibly until its complete fulfillment." The same declaration said: "In order to fulfill the announced objective, the government commits itself in putting all its efforts into the preparation of a new political plan replacing the prior plan." Within the framework of this commitment, the Armed Forces Political Affairs Commission (COMASPO) was created with the purpose of instrumenting the necessary measures to reach the set objectives. These objectives were finally achieved, resulting in my nomination as the candidate of the armed forces by the unanimous decision of the members of a junta of generals. The steps that followed are well known: My candidacy was proposed to the electoral organization -- the Council of the Nation -- and was unanimously approved. A few days before these events, the government established dates and guidelines that delineate the term in office of the current government, which, as you said, have been well received by public opinion, therefore it has the complete support of the armed forces because they played a significant role in instrumenting it.

[Question] What judgment and values will be used to establish limitations -- if they are established -- affecting persons, parties or ideologies during the forthcoming reactivation of Uruguayan political activities?

[Answer] There is no forthcoming reactivation of Uruguayan political activities. The reactivation is already in progress. The first results are the repeated contacts with political parties, the rehabilitation of political leaders in those parties, the meeting of different parties and the unrestricted freedom of the press -- subject only to the laws of the country -- in case professional and personal responsibility were not sufficient. Regarding limitations on parties or ideologies, I would like to reiterate what I have said before: "Those parties which respond to foreign inspiration and are directed from abroad will not be allowed in the country."

[Question] Are there minimum and precise guidelines for the instrumentation of political opening?

[Answer] Political opening is in full operation and it is sufficiently flexible to adjust to the situations developing in the process. I would like to clarify, however, that are minimum and precise guidelines. They include the preparation of the political parties statute -- already in process; the election of party officials by political parties; the study of the electoral law; the preparation of a new constitution or amendments to the current constitution and a call for a referendum; and the holding of national elections by the electoral body in November 1984. The last step of these guidelines for the implementation of a political opening is the inauguration of a new president on 1 March 1985.

[Question] Do the Uruguayan Armed Forces wish to institutionalize some form of participation [for themselves] in the government that will take over in 1985? How will this participation be instrumented?

[Answer] Our own experience and the experience of other nations in the modern world show that the participation of the armed forces is necessary in any process of development with the sole purpose of guaranteeing and insuring the necessary level of order and security for the normal development of national activities.

[Question] Will the armed forces maintain their professional nature as in the past, when they return to their specific activities after 1985?

[Answer] Since the situation created in 1973 up to the present the armed forces have never departed from their specific activities. Also, their professional nature was never lost or affected. What I have said is still valid beyond 1985.

[Question] Can the politization which the Uruguayan Armed Forces have inevitably experienced after a long participation in public activities become a hazard for the stability of future civilian governments?

[Answer] Not in the least. The "politization," as you call the participation in government, has enriched the tasks of the armed forces for the benefit of the community which is in turn where their members come from. It would be wrong to say that they could become a risk for the stability of any government.

[Question] Is subversion in Uruguay an exhausted experience which will not be repeated, or could it reappear in view of unpredictable factors, not necessarily domestic?

[Answer] Uruguay like any other country is not safe from the outbreak or recurrence of subversion. The government will be permanently on the look out for any sign of a new outbreak of subversion in our territory in any of its forms.

[Question] What have these past 8 years -- which by the time elections are held will have become 11 years -- free of political activities represent for the Uruguayans and the most important political parties?

[Answer] As an Uruguayan citizen -- since I cannot answer on behalf of any political party -- I believe that these years without political activity will result in the strengthening of the parties themselves since they will be revitalized with infusions of young people who in the future will hold our country's leadership.

However, I would like to make a point here: In view of the path we have taken at present, the number of years "free of political activities" will never reach 11 years; nor has it reached 8 years if we take into account the political activities which started before the plebiscite in November 1980.

[Question] Regarding continental security, do the events in Nicaragua and El Salvador represent any sort of danger for the rest of the Southern Cone countries despite the fact that the social, political and historical conditions in most of them are different?

[Answer] Any communist regime is dangerous for America; it is dangerous for the Southern Cone and the entire American continent.

[Question] What factors would justify the direct intervention of the remaining South American countries in El Salvador? What is the Uruguayan Government's position in this respect?

[Answer] As long as El Salvador does not intervene in any of the remaining South American states I do not see any factor which would justify direct intervention in El Salvador.

In this case, as well as in others, Uruguay reasserts its unwavering support of the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states.

[Questions] Uruguay promptly and categorically rejected the joint French-Mexican declaration in which those countries recognized the opposition in El Salvador. Who does this unexpected French-Mexican declaration favor?

[Answer] My country's Foreign Ministry has stated that "the forces which are unduly accorded a representative nature are no less than those of armed subversion, which have foreign support and confront a government which has been internationally recognized."

From this you will be able to discern whom the French-Mexican declaration favors.

[Question] What are the factors which hinder efficient and coordinated international action to protect the nations from subversion?

[Answer] I would say that those factors are of a political nature.

[Question] To what extent has Ronald Reagan's advent to the U.S. presidency helped improve your country's relations with the United States?

[Answer] It is not Ronald Reagan's advent to the U.S. presidency that has helped improve the U.S.-Uruguayan relations. This improvement owes to a better understanding, by the entire team of Reagan's administration, of the problems and situation which my country has had to endure.

[Question] Does the Uruguayan participation in the peacekeeping force in the Sinai mean that Uruguay will have a direct participation in the decisions made in the future to ease the tense atmosphere in a zone such as the Middle East which is constantly in conflict?

[Answer] The Uruguayan participation in the establishment of a peacekeeping force in the Sinai is an honor for our country and a concrete opportunity to exercise -- with deeds -- the deep-rooted desire for peace and coexistence which our republic has supported ever since it was born.

[Question] As a result of intense diplomatic activity the PLO has recently obtained de facto recognition and in some Latin American countries where it has established an office it has become a pseudoembassy. Will Uruguay not modify its position regarding an organization which, like the PLO, uses terror as its most efficient tool of action?

[Answer] For the time being there is no study for changes in this regard.

[Question] Are there any aspects to be improved in the good relationship which have always existed between Uruguay and Israel?

[Answer] Although I do not think there are specific aspects to be improved in the good relationship between our two countries I believe that there will always be opportunities to extend, strengthen and maybe even improve those good relations.

Anyhow, the fact that Uruguay, with the approval of all the countries involved -- especially that of your country -- has been suggested as a member of the peacekeeping force in the Sinai is an evident sign of the level of our relationship.

[Question] What degree of participation do you foresee the Uruguayan youth will have in the upcoming process, taking into account that during 1984-85, after exactly 11 years of a certain political recess, there is a sector of the citizenry which will launch fully into political activities.

[Answer] We are aware and said so in our 1 September message that the youth is the most important heritage of our country.

Now then, in the area of participation to which you are referring, in the political field, it is very important -- not to say indispensable -- that the youth participate in the traditional political parties, especially to revitalize those political parties with new people and new ideas. Therefore, we hope that during the time left until November 1984 that our youth will have access to the political parties and that those young people with political aspirations and callings will have access to leading posts within our country.

[Question] Do you yourself have any visit or tour through the zone [Sinai] in mind?

[Answer] No, for the time being I have no visit to the zone in mind.

[Col Alberto Larroque interrupting] Mr President excuse the interruption. Do you think it would be proper to mention that you recently received the representatives of the Jewish community at your office?

[Answer] Yes, Sir. Yes I met with the representatives of the Jewish community and the Israeli ambassador. We maintain a very cordial relationship which could not be otherwise; it is a large and very hard working community which identifies itself with the Uruguayan life style. I have listened to their points of view and believe that we will continue to work together and with pleasure. Regarding the previous question, for the time being I have no trip in mind unless the troops of my country are in the Sinai and in that case I will try to find the opportunity to go and visit them....

[Question] Precisely, the origin of my question was based on the fact that since Uruguay will have direct participation with troops the opportunity is given....

[Answer] Yes, I have thought of going to the zone where our troops are stationed. At some opportunity I hope to visit them and be by their side and learn about their problems and the tasks they have been entrusted with.

[Question] Let me pose another question regarding Uruguayan domestic affairs. Specifically what is the official point of view regarding the present structure of political parties. Do you believe that the armed forces and political parties will be able to complement each other during the opening process?

[Answer] Yes, I hope so since this is the intention of the civilian-military process. Now it is up to those men who have political aspirations to take the proper steps and to make the parties take the proper steps to fulfill all the stages that will enable us to arrive at the end of the process in 1985 in the best of conditions. As I have already noted, I believe it is my responsibility to see that these men act within traditional political parties and to see that this process will be achieved without any divisions.

[Question] Now regarding a burning issue. Do you believe there is Marxist infiltration in certain sectors? Or that there is a constant Soviet infiltration of certain sectors?

[Answer] Well, the degree of infiltration varies with the regions and the circumstances. What I can say in this regard is that it is the intention of international communism to infiltrate our countries through any means.

[Question] Even through trade?

[Answer] Through any means. They rely on any means to infiltrate and to achieve their objectives.

[Question] Do you believe that this Soviet objective of interfering in the domestic affairs of several countries through trade, restrains or conditions the trade programs of these countries?

[Answer] No, it does not as long as their trade is done in the ideological field, in the domestic field. [as published] I do not think they are conditioned.

[Question] Has the change in the U.S. Government been favorable to Latin America?

[Answer] Yes, I believe that it has been favorable.

[Question] Is there a better understanding of those problems affecting Latin American military governments?

[Answer] Yes, I believe so. In our recent meetings with U.S. Government representatives I got the impression that there is a better understanding between the United States and Latin American governments in general. I believe that in the Southern Cone in particular the U.S. government is trying to establish a new policy toward these countries, a policy that we backed. [as published]

[Question] Was this obvious in the previous U.S. administration?

[Answer] Yes, of course.

[Question] Did this policy promote to a certain extent the incursion of the left and guerrilla activities in these countries?

[Answer] No, because Carter assumed the U.S. presidency after Uruguay had confronted guerrilla activity but I believe that he justified the presence of guerrillas in Uruguay since he did not support those men who were in favor of the law.

[Question] Do you believe that these mid-level officials who many times condition high-level policy-making, and who to a certain extent handle international policy-making have been excluded from the Reagan administration?

[Answer] I believe President Reagan exercises a more adequate control over these mid-level officials.

[Question] How are U.S.-Uruguayan relations in the military field. Has there been an increase in cooperation between the two countries?

[Answer] Well, at this time they are normal.

[Question] Are there at present any frictions in U.S.-Uruguayan relations?

[Answer] Not at all.

BRIEFS

SALTO GRANDE DAM TURBINE -- The 10th turbine of the Salto Grande hydroelectric plant was started up today during a ceremony presided over by the under secretaries of the Uruguayan and Argentine energy ministries. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Sep 81 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK -- The Uruguayan and Spanish foreign ministers, Estanislao Valdes and Jose Perez Lorca, respectively, have just ended a meeting in New York during which they analized topics of bilateral interest. Valdes had a meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas earlier today. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Sep PY]

BALANCE OF TRADE FIGURES -- Official sources have reported that during the first half of 1981, Uruguayan exports increased 47 percent, imports decreased and the balance of trade registered a smaller deficit than it did in the same period of 1980. Uruguayan exports reached $626 million while imports reached $809 million during the first half of 1981, thus giving a $182 million deficit. In the same 1980 period oil accounted for 30 percent of imports, which registered a $22 million decline. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1358 GMT 23 Sep PY]

DE LA MADRID ACCEPTS PRI NOMINATION, MAKES SPEECH

FL132020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2250 GMT 11 Oct 81

[Excerpts] After stating that independence and democracy will be the basic principles for his government and after vowing to fight corruption by boosting society's morality and to energetically attack inflation, presidential candidate Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado called upon all Mexicans to emphasize efficiency nationwide in order to put an end once and for all to that malicious myth of "our innate inefficiency" claimed by those who want to subject us.

After being sworn in as the official PRI candidate in the presence of 30,000 PRI members, De la Madrid reaffirmed his solidarity and alliance with the peasants, workers and the masses and his support for measures designed to give life, sense and dynamism to the political organization that sets the course to be followed by Mexico.

Among the basic remarks he made in his speech, De la Madrid promised that if he assumes power he will affirm political and economic independence, will strengthen nationalism, will further equality among all Mexicans and will promote democracy. He also pledged to promote development with social justice and to carry on efforts under way to give international validity to our foreign policy principles. To this end, he asked for a conscientious, unwavering national participation.

The PRI candidate told the peasants that it is necessary to refute the charges of those who, driven by reactionary interests, refuse to acknowledge the success of the agrarian reform carried out by the Mexican revolution. He said that although there are problems in rural areas, these problems are not insolvable since the vital forces needed to promote social development are precisely in rural areas.

He promised to further agrarian reform. He noted that only through compliance with the law and the implementation of new forms of association, especially those related to the use of common land and the establishment of small lots of land, will bring about a more prosperous future to Mexican rural sectors.

He said that he will guide production toward meeting the basic needs of the people and will prevent it from becoming a factor in determining consumption trends and from making the people spend money on unnecessary products.

He pledged to energetically fight inflation which has a major impact on those to whom we must give the greatest protection. He noted that reducing the high cost of living should be the main concern of a government which is devoted to the people.

He added that he will maintain the country's foreign policy and will carry on the renewed intention of emphasizing priorities and efficiency in the quest for a society of free, equal nations within mutual respect and justice.

He also reiterated his support for a mixed-economy system, reaffirmed his nationalist beliefs and stated that Mexico's greatness must be built through the participation of all Mexicans.

Finally, he conveyed to the 30,000 PRI members and through them to the millions of men and women who comprise the party's majority force that on accepting the PRI nomination for the presidency he was also assuming the responsibility of looking after the ideological advancement of the movement -- which he regarded as a clear political commitment.

PRESIDENT ROYO REPORTS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PA112231 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1612 GMT 11 Oct 81

[Speech by Panamanian President Aristides Royo to mark the beginning of a new term of office of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives at the Legislative Palace in Panama City--live]

[Text] Your Excellency, Dr Luis de Leon Arias, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives; Your Excellency, Gonzalo Rodriguez Marquez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Your Excellency, Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, commander in chief of the National Guard; Your Excellency, Ricardo de la Espriella, vice president of the republic; vice presidents of the assembly; ministers; chiefs of diplomatic missions accredited in Panama; honorable legislators; honorable representatives; Your Excellency, Monsignor McGrath, chief of the Panamanian church; civilian, military and ecclesiastical authorities; ladies and gentlemen:

In fulfillment of a constitutional mandate, we appear before this honorable assembly to report on the activities of the administration during the past year. With this address, we also recognize and pay tribute to the people's power, which is one of the great basic pillars that support the constitutional life of the republic. [applause]

We wish to congratulate the presidency of this great assembly and all the honorable representatives and legislators for the broad and arduous work accomplished during this period. The document that we have distributed to you today faithfully reflects the activities carried out by the institutions of the Panamanian state over the past year. Because its content is so extensive and so varied, it would take too much time to attempt to summarize it in one speech. We preferred to leave it in your hands for the general information of the country, and to take this opportunity to broach other matters of national interest.

This 11 October is painful due to the physical absence of the one who was the initiator and top leader of the Panamanian revolutionary process. However, instead of tears, this extraordinary patriot left us his great example and his unforgettable feats, as well as our unyielding determination to continue to carry his banner forward. We will continue to carry out, without pause or rest, and in close unity with our people, the broad program of national affirmation, independence and integral development that he promoted until we reach the final objective that he had indicated.

The physical disappearance of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, joined with the immense demonstration of mourning and of faith given by so many hundreds of thousands of Panamanians during the ceremonies held to bid him farewell point up another aspect of the concept of retreat announced by him in 1978, because in these 3 years, Omar taught us all to organize, to consult each other and to reach solutions, thus preparing ourselves to confront even the greatest adversities and move forward. This is so true that, despite the frenetic efforts at political destabilization and the campaign of rumor and intrigue launched from abroad and within the country, our country continued to give the world a worthy example of stability, social peace and constitutional order. This is so because the achievements of the revolutionary process restored the social, economic and political bases of the Panamanian nation and because Torrijism has been strengthened in the hearts of the people and in the trust of the peasants, the white- and blue-collar workers, the professionals and businessmen, the military, the youth and women, with profound patriotic, revolutionary and democratic faith.

In Panama, there is and there will continue to be a regime which respects human rights. We remain firmly committed to maintaining constitutional order and the legal regime. We will continue to strengthen this atmosphere of freedom of expression, of organization and of assembly promoted by the revolutionary process, as is required by a modern, pluralistic and participatory democracy. On this basis, we will continue to consolidate the plan of democratic institutionalization drafted by Omar and recorded in the Constitution.

Our capacity for respectful and frank dialogue is one of the bases of the social peace and of the continuous development that characterize our country, in contrast to the heart-rending turmoil with which the major part of the present world is afflicted. This is linked to our ability to correct the real causes of social conflict, such as the violence of hunger, helplessness, the lack of health and the neglect and the violence of ignorance and of privilege. This capacity for dialogue, as Omar taught us, is one of our main instruments for preventing those forms of violence. We are all responsible for and guarantors of that social peace and of the capacity for dialogue that is needed to preserve it.

You are familiar with General Torrijos' thesis regarding the four great pillars on which the Panamanian revolutionary process rests. During this period, these four bases of the process have shown themselves to be well coordinated. This unity was not forged around narrow political interests, but on the bases of the great objectives of our national aspirations: sovereignty and the social, economic and cultural development of our fatherland with the participation of all the productive sectors for the benefit of all needy sectors.

The date 11 October is the most propitious occasion for us to refer to two of those basic pillars: the National Guard and the people's power. The National Guard, led by General Torrijos and his companions, on a day like today, were responsible for initiating this phase of the nation's history. Panama is proud to have an armed force that, instead of defending unjust backwardness and privileges and instead of oppressing its compatriots, fully identifies with the struggles and the goals of its people.

The retrogressive governments of the past in this country ascribed to the former national police a role that was allegedly not deliberative [deliberante], but in practice the former police always very belligerently abused the people in defense of oligarchic and colonialist interests. [applause]

This was definitely ended by the modern National Guard, which was patriotically forged by General Torrijos and his companions. Our military personnel will never again be subject to the shame of being considered nondeliberative, as if they were mere figureheads for the worst politicking interests. We are proud to have an armed force that deliberates, that thinks with the same right as all of our people, and that, moreover, does this with clarity and highmindedness.

This National Guard, which thinks and feels with the same heart as all Panamanians, coordinates its constant patrolling with the revolutionary government and the people's power. It is sensitive to national and social problems and it supports the constitutional organs of the Panamanian state as an efficient bastion at the service of the people and the nation.

We recognize the National Guard's loyalty to the ideals of Gen Omar Torrijos, its service to the integrity of the republic, to constitutional order, to the tranquil and free interplay of political ideas and to the effective exercise of social justice, and its custodianship of the lives, honor and goods of citizens.

With this recognition, we also honor the memory of Omar Torrijos Herrera in the persons of those who accompanied him as his brothers among the people and his comrades in arms since 11 October 1968 and who continue to accompany him today within the General Staff and the official hierarchy of the National Guard. Moreover, we wish to extend this sincere salute and recognition to the worthy and brave family of Omar Torrijos, to Dona Raquel [Torrijos' widow] and to Omar's siblings and children. [applause] The Panamanian people will always be grateful to you for the exemplary nobility that you demonstrated at all times.

On a previous occasion, we said that the best tribute to Omar's works and teachings is not to embalm them, but to continue them. This should be the motor that drives our efforts. The task of developing democratic institutions requires addressing our efforts toward broadening and improving the mechanisms of consultation and participation of the various national sectors, making the methods of consultation and the reaching of consensus more dynamic and ensuring that the sectors that are consulted have means of participating in the implementation of the decisions adopted collectively.

Two of the most authentic original contributions of the Panamanian revolutionar, process *to these purposes have been the system of consultation and representation of* the people's power and the concept of union between the people and the government. These two mainstays should be newly and significantly developed. Although they are not the only mechanisms of consultation and participation that should characterize us, they have a constitutional basis that is a substantial part of our Magna Charta and our government philosophy.

Today, the extraordinary role of the people's power, the honorable Corregimiento representatives and the honorable legislators has greater relevance than ever, but an even more special relevance is acquired by the role of the democratic structure on which the people's power is based: the local and community juntas. These juntas are the bases that nurture the vitality and the authenticity of the system of the people's representativity and participation. The Panamanian system is precisely based on the effective and direct participation of communities in the discussion and implementation of their priorities, initiatives and tasks. We have arranged for the system for determining priorities and planning the national budget and government actions to be based on discussions with the community juntas and the provincial coordination juntas. The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry has already been operating in this way in establishing government programs. This is an eminently Torrijist policy.

It is up to the honorable representatives to ensure that in these discussions there is an effective participation by the communities, without which all these programs would have no foundation. The community juntas should show the greatest interest in seeing that the consultations take place and that there is an exhaustive discussion of priorities. From within those very community juntas, the communities should be alert to see that these plans are indeed carried out by the responsible institutions and should demand that they be carried out properly. The community juntas and the honorable representatives should be the main supervisors and evaluators of the actions of government agencies and, when necessary, they should report instances of noncompliance by officials and take action to correct this.

We will always be on the side of the people's power in situations of this type, [applause] as long as the actions or programs involved were presented with due advance notice. Similarly, within this honorable assembly, there should be encouragement of the assembly's function of overseeing and evaluation of the fulfillment of the programs of the revolutionary government by the various state bodies, as well as of the other functions.

To support a strengthening of the bases of the people's power, we have issued instructions that the next national budget should contain larger allocations for the operation of the community juntas and for investments by them. [applause] Mr (Torres), this should also be reflected in an increased number of actions, works and programs within the concept of union between the people and the government, in which the government bodies should participate along with the organized communities.

As much as possible, it should be ensured that the representatives of the National Guard also participate in these common efforts. The retreat does not mean that the guard has abandoned its honorable social and civic responsibilities, which it will continue [applause] to meet arm in arm with the people.

The people's power and the National Guard have always walked together as an expression of a Torrijist marriage that should never be dissolved. [applause]

In the course of the past year, the National Legislation Council has proven on many occasions that it listens to the various sectors affected by the various bills being discussed and that it is advised by those sectors. In that period, the honorable legislators worked intensively. The council has considered and debated many bills, many of them involving great responsibility and complexity, such as the replacement of the former Law 95, the wage-increase law, the law on the transisthmian oil pipeline and the law for the democratization of the university. In some cases, certain groups sought to give the impression that certain bills had disregarded some sector of the citizenry. At times, by this method, they tried to obstruct or distort the debate on such bills in an attempt to impose particular interests over the majority opinion.

Indeed, there are cases of conflicting interests in which it is very difficult to please all sectors. However, it should be recognized that the honorable legislators have listened to all the opinions, have sought to reconcile them and have made a decision on the basis of the national interest, proceeding with broad viewpoints and with a great sense of responsibility.

In the people's power, as in the various areas of government, consultation, participation and the permanent effort to achieve a broad consensus should be the norm. However, this should not mean that, under the pretext of this principle, some persons should try at times to replace an authentic consultation with the rank and file with confusion or intimidation. This has been attempted by certain pressure groups, who tried to unilaterally impose their will through disorder, economic power or threats, instead of representing the true majority. Those who want to be consulted must respect the viewpoints of other sectors, must cooperate honestly in the conciliation effort and must accept the opinion of the majority. The true national interest will continue to prevail over the interests of groups or individuals.

Similarly, certain groups have sought to deceive the public with the allegation that this government suffers from administrative corruption. We flatly reject this campaign of lies. Among those who seek to promote those untruths are several persons who in the past were involved in very shady dealings and who at present have lost every chance of carrying out dirty deals by using influence with the government. [applause]

There are also some who are desperate because they lack arguments. They lie in order to have something to say. However, freedom of expression does not imply the right to lie with impunity. Neither does freedom of expression provide impunity for using words for political blackmail. We are respectful and patient, but we are proud to head an honest administration and our patience in the face of such irresponsible accusations cannot last indefinitely.

We do not deny that there are still certain inefficiencies in certain areas of public administration. There are even officials who commit irresponsible acts. One way in which this is manifested is lack of discipline in the implementation of certain executive policies and instructions. In such cases, we will have even less patience. The efficiency of the government and the progress of the revolutionary process require the detection and punishment of those who are causing harm through indiscipline or irresponsibility in the fulfillment of their functions or in an attempt to hamper other officials. Ministers or directors of state institutions are primarily responsible for ending these distortions. However, I hereby demand of you, honorable Corregimiento representatives, your most vigilant cooperation to ferret out and denounce those defects wherever they may be and, of course, to also denounce any symptom of administrative immorality that may indeed exist at any level of any official agency. In doing so, you will be doing your duty to the revolutionary process. Moreover, you will be doing your duty to your respective communities, because the people chose you for the express purpose of safeguarding their interests. Looking out for the quality of administration is included in those interests.

We wish to note here that, on 1 April 1980, we outlined to you the policy and the program of our government. What we said on that occasion still stands. It is the basic mission of our leaders and officials to achieve the implementation of that policy and program. Similarly, our most important request of you, honorable representatives, is that you support us in this implementation, promoting, criticizing and taking action to see that this policy and program are carried out, even if many doors have to be knocked down and many irresponsible persons denounced to achieve this.

One of the problems that is of serious concern to our people is the economic situation. At present the world economic situation is critical and affects all nations. Panama has not escaped this international problem. It can be seen that the effects of this situation have affected most of the other countries of the region more seriously and with more violence. This is due to the fact that the international factors of crisis have had less internal effects here because of the large number of measures that we took in the past few years. We created infrastructural works and new areas of production which now are cushioning the blows caused by the world crisis.

Since the end of last year, we have been involved in a tense period of negotiations with the company that refines oil in our country. This was due to the company's efforts to raise the price of oil byproducts exorbitantly as a result of the deterioration in the bunker market abroad. The reduction in sales of that product abroad has a notable effect on the company's profits in our country; therefore, the company sought to compensate by raising the prices of the other byproducts on the local market.

The company exerted heavy pressure to change our refusal to accept excessive price increases. It stopped purchasing crude under the San Jose agreement, which would have caused us losses of up to $20 million in terms of the financial benefits that we receive from that agreement. They even closed the refinery, seriously jeopardizing the supply of oil byproducts available in the country.

In the light of this situation, the various bodies of our government worked as a well-integrated team. We also received the fraternal support of Mexico and Venezuela. In the negotiations, we made the company reduce its demands to a minimum. Supply has been guaranteed. The cooperation of Mexico and Venezuela has kept Panama from sustaining financial losses, since they will replace the crude that the company refused to purchase. However, the price of gasoline and diesel will undergo a slight increase, which is minimal in comparison with the price that the company sought to impose.

In all these situations, we have managed to guarantee our basic objectives regarding the supply of oil and its byproducts. These are: to guarantee short- medium- and long-term supply, minimize the real cost to our nation, make our basic purchases from countries that have great reserves such as Mexico and Venezuela and continue all refining in Panama. By these means, we will not depend to such a great extent on the distant and unstable suppliers of the Middle East which could have caused delays or insecurities in supply.

Regarding these situations, it is necessary to develop our own natural and geographical resources even more. Only in this manner will we be less exposed to the critical international circumstances and to the pressure of transnational companies.

It is significant that, despite the world economic situation, our country maintains a notable economic growth. However, we must accept the fact that we will still be faced with some difficult years in which we must take certain austerity measures. We have maintained and expanded a climate of confidence in investments. One effect of this is that many foreign companies and investments continue to come to Panama, because they find a stable, favorable situation that is being reflected in the creation of jobs. For our part, we Panamanians must also learn to invest more and produce more. At the same time, we will continue to struggle for greater justice in international economic and financial relations.

One of the effects of the critical international situation is the problem of unemployment that exists almost everywhere in the world. The statistics on unemployment in our country have been repeatedly misrepresented and exaggerated by various opposition groups. They are not interested in solving the problem, but in exploiting it politically. However, although the situation has improved somewhat, we continue to be equally concerned about the question, no matter what the real figures are. This is not exclusively a problem for the state, but also for private enterprise, which has helped to confront it, but should continue to contribute in an increasing proportion so that the problem may be solved.

Panama has achieved progress of some importance in the development of natural resources and in labor training. This has had important effects since, as our economy has been modernized, unemployment has primarily affected those workers who have the least technical or professional training. However, what is more important is that in our country, several projects continue to advance. In addition to increasing the national income and providing us with more resources for confronting our problems, these projects are absorbing increasing amounts of manpower, either in themselves or as a result of the new economic areas that they create. One of the areas that has been most affected for the past several years has been the city of Colon.

As is known, enormous investments are now being made in Colon and they should produce very favorable changes. However, the new government effort in the Colon area has advanced more slowly than expected and its effects are not yet being felt with the required force.

We think that insufficient action has been taken, that the residents of Colon have not been sufficiently informed or consulted and that they are not being given as much opportunity to participate as they should. Corrective measures must be taken and responsibilities assigned to promote the implementation and the effects of the various programs.

We have appointed Housing Minister Abel Rodriguez, to be transferred permanently to Colon, to coordinate all the government projects in that area. [applause] Moreover, he should strengthen actions related to housing. Since there have been difficulties in implementing the plan, some aspects of the plan have been reformulated. In housing, a self-help project has been initiated in Arco Iris No 2, and a project of 400 houses valued at 52.6 million should immediately begin. A contract has already been signed with the construction companies and the work should begin within 15 days.

We have issued instructions for the free-zone projects to provide more direct and immediate benefits to the residents of Colon. Additionally, it is very important for the Commission for the Development of Colon, [Comision de Desarrollo de Colon -- CODECO] to be totally and completely transferred to that city, since it is artificial and rather ineffective for that commission to design plans from the capital without being in continual contact with the people of Colon.

Another topic of concern is the Cerro Colorado mining-metalworking project. According to its promoters, this project would imply the rational exploitation of one of the nation's greatest resources and would open a new dimension in the development of Panama's economy and technology. However, more than once we have extended the periods of study and evaluation of this project to get a more in-depth idea of each of its costs and effects. We want to analyze it with great prudence in order to be completely sure that we would not be committing errors that would be regretted later.

It would be irresponsible to fail to take advantage of something that could make a beneficial contribution to the nation's economic development. However, under no circumstances will we agree to the Cerro Colorado project if it implies the emplacement of new colonialist stakes in our country or if it would cause other important damage. Therefore, once again, we are reviewing the project and we have ordered that, before any decision is made, a broad national debate should be held on all aspects of the project so that there may be no doubts remaining abo t these delicate matters.

Independent of the results of this analysis of Cerro Colorado, the delimitation of the Guaymi territory has to be effected now. In this delimitation, there must be respect for the rights of thousands of peasant families that, since remote times, have been settled in the areas bordering on the territory. However, it is also necessary to establish an Indian policy. It is not enough to delimit the territory; it is also necessary to simultaneously rescue its residents from neglect by transforming, with their participation, the conditions of production, health, employment and education in which they live.

With or without the mine, it is necessary to respect the land and the culture of the Guaymi. It is also necessary to promote an improvement of the conditions and the quality of life of those Panamanians.

What does constitute complete dishonesty is for topics that are of such importance for the country, such as Cerro Colorado and the Guaymi territory, to be manipulated and politicized with fallacious arguments. The good faith and lack of knowledge of many Panamanians has been abused with absurd arguments regarding alleged harmful effects of the mining project. If we reject the project, we will do so for serious and well-founded reasons. Similarly, a minority has tried to agitate for an alleged defense of the Guaymi simply to preserve certain petty interests of those who still profit from the present exploitation and neglect of the area's inhabitants. By these means, that group seeks to have the present state of affairs in that region maintained. The truth is, we reiterate, that with or without the mine, that injustice must end.

Another topic of recent discussion has been the family institute. Broad sectors agree that there is a serious social problem in this area which should receive careful and permanent attention. It is good that the draft bill that has been presented should serve to call attention to this problem and to generate a willingness to cooperate in designing a good solution. As is proper, the idea has been subjected to a process of consultation that is broader and of greater participation. For our part, we hope that a bill will be passed that most of the Panamanian families can support and that it will truly reach those sectors that need the attention of that new entity.

To you, Monsignor McGrath, who on many occasions have expressed to me in private and to the entire country your great concern over the deterioration of the Panamanian family, I say that from you and from the groups that will share this task with you, we expect broad support for the achievement of the best bill for the best institute for the Panamanian family. [prolonged applause]

We also wish to appeal to the professors, students and officials of the University of Panama. For the national interest, it is time for you to achieve the broad consensus that will permit a democratic resolution of the present administrative and academic situation in your institution. The country not only expects that the university regularize the application of its new organizational law, but above all, that it serve as the center for analysis and scientific debate that it should be. We expect from the university the researched, documented and in-depth criticism that it owes to society, to be applied to the practice of national development. We expect academic depth in the knowledge of Panamanian realities and alternatives and we expect the preparation of professionals who are scientifically trained to transform the country.

It is the duty of all university students to establish the agreements and methods necessary for the institution begin to respond to our people's national expectations. Recently, certain national sectors have been speculating and have applied certain ideological classifications to the revolutionary process. They have been doing this for 13 years. Neither the process nor the government has deviated one iota from the course always set for them by General Torrijos. Anyone who seeks to pigeonhole us using foreign definitions will be making a mistake, because this is a completely Panamanian process. [applause]

We are not and do not seek to be socialists. The Panamanian process is characterized by a model of national development that is particularly ours and that has not been copied from anyone. This model consists of using resources from the tertiary sector of our economy for investment in the productive sectors of that economy by means of the harmonious cooperation of all the nation's productive forces, that is, through the cooperation of state and mixed enterprises with large, medium and small private enterprises and with social property enterprises.

It is not possible to conceive of the Panamanian economy, or of the role of the state in that economy, simply as a permanent recycling or renourishing of the tertiary sector. The tertiary sector is not and cannot be an end in itself. Instead, its duty is to contribute to the development of the food production, to the growth of agroindustry and the production of exportable goods and so forth. This should be carefully noted by our planners and officials.

The Torrijist concept of development implies that we must take advantage of the canal and other advantages of Panama's geographic position to open and exploit many other national resources and not remain indefinitely limited solely to the fickle benefits of the canal transit activities. This is especially necessary since our regime is not a technocratic one that is devoted solely to improving the function of the presently insufficient structures.

This is a revolutionary government that is committed to methodical and continuous transformation in the search for the economic, social and cultural development of our people and of national independence.

This is a model of development with the participation and support of all the social sectors. It can be planned by establishing common goals and priorities that are national and developmental in nature.

For this united progress to be national in nature, it must produce benefits for the various social sectors that are participating in the development effort. It must jointly produce new forms of production and new sources of wealth as well as distribute benefits in such a way that all the participating sectors may be fairly compensated. It must create wealth among all and give it a more just social and regional distribution. This is what permits us to consolidate the social peace that makes it possible to continue our progressive development. The coordination and planning of this economic and social policy is the constitutional responsibility of the state, which should implement it through permanent consultation with, and with the participation of the various productive sectors.

Therefore, our government proposes to maintain harmonious cooperation with the various sectors of private enterprise, including those involving foreign companies that may be beneficial to the economic development of our country. However, our government also has the duty to maintain equally harmonious relations with the labor sectors and with the social property enterprises that also form part of the same development effort.

The progress of this economic policy occasionally requires reforms that must always be discussed, as well as the opening of new areas or forms of production that must be rationally encouraged by promoting the modernization of the economy as well as the transferral of capital that was formerly used for more primitive areas toward more productive and more appropriate areas.

However, in any case, our development is the responsibility of all Panamanians and should benefit us all. Similarly, when circumstances demand certain sacrifices or risks, all sectors must contribute their corresponding share, because, I repeat, this country belongs equally to all Panamanians and we must all share its fate and its destiny in a harmonious proportion.

Within the constitutional program of democratization, we reiterate our determination to guarantee an honest and efficient electoral process in 1984. In it, free, safe and orderly participation will be open to all the legally established political parties. To this end, it is necessary to pass all the corresponding legislation. We wish to establish and develop this through dialogue and consultation with the various political parties established or in the process of being established. We will request their participation for this purpose, with a view toward achieving well-balanced contributions and a well-balanced consensus.

We would like the opposition parties to participate constructively in the solution of national problems instead of participating in political life only through opposition criticism. We would also like them to participate as organizations that are interested in the national development, which belongs to all Panamanians, by contributing viable ideas and projects that will help to improve our country's situation. We will be ready to receive constructive proposals from them.

We think it is unnecessary to refer, on this occasion, to Panama's foreign policy and foreign relations. In a recent speech, we outlined the national government's positions in this area. The honorable representatives are aware of these positions and have in their hands the text of the previously mentioned speech. We can say the same regarding Panama's relations with the United States on the Panama Canal treaties and the fulfillment of them. Last year, we gave a detailed report on this issue before the honorable assembly. Moreover, the present status of the issue was also outlined in the previously mentioned speech. A copy of that speech has been given to you. For the rest, it may be added that our relations with each of the neighboring sister republics, Colombia and Costa Rica, are good and are developing normally.

Just a few days ago, humankind was moved by a sorrowful and contemptible event: the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat, a loyal friend of the Panamanian revolution. Today we wish to express our sorrow over his death and also our vigorous condemnation of assassination as a political expedient.

In early August, President as-Sadat, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Egyptian people and government, sent us a sincere message of condolence on the death of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

He said that our revolutionary leader had lived a life full of glorious acts for the benefit of his fatherland and his people. He acclaimed Torrijos for his constructive efforts to serve the cause of peace and world security. We wish to apply these same worthy and honorable words of recognition to President as-Sadat.

To the international community gathered in the United Nations, we reaffirmed the independent and sovereign, Third World and nonaligned nature of our foreign policy, which is already a tradition in our country.

We have confirmed with immense satisfaction that Panama enjoys very high prestige, respect and appreciation among the countries of the world, as is appropriate to our international position and to our geographical position as a world center of communications and trade and to our strategy of economic development. We must preserve and enforce our right to have diplomatic and economic relations with all the world's nations. We will do so with the sole and inevitable condition that there be strict respect for all aspects of our government system, our freedom, idiosyncracy, sovereignty and independence.

Honorable representatives, the contemporary world is threatened by great dangers and rent by painful conflicts. In these circumstances, our small but honorable country appears as one of the few bastions of peace and tranquillity. We have stability and we have many reasons to be proud of being Panamanians. Upon us all lies the responsibility for preserving this country, not only as a bridge between the two great portions of the new world, but also as a linchpin of liaison between the ideologies and aspirations of this new world.

We are faced with difficulties, minor compared to those of others, but difficulties just the same, that we will confront and overcome together. The important thing is that these problems have not weakened us. Instead, with God's help, they have given us more courage to struggle and move forward. Thank you very much. [applause]

MOLIRENA COMMUNIQUE HITS ROYO'S UN SPEECH

PA130038 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Oct 81 p 5A

[Communique issued by the Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement]

[Text] Judging by its content, President Royo's UN speech had the following objectives:

A. To show how well informed his government is on current worldwide events;

B. To give the impression that his government respects certain principles which it has not honored in its relations with some nations, much less domestically;

C. To show his government's ability to suggest solutions which could improve existing situations in the world and could put an end to conflicts;

CH. [as published, letter in Spanish alphabet] To propagandize this process for which he is one of the main beneficiaries, even if he has to again alter our country's historic reality;

D. To timidly denounce with little spirit, for obvious reasons, violations to the Panama Canal Treaty;

E. To ask the nations of the world to respect and support the neutrality treaty, which does not correspond to the legitimate interests of our country and contains provisions which damage the country's dignity and sovereignty.

We are going to elaborate on each of the abovementioned six points.

A. The World's Present Situation

This is our opinion on this matter:

1. Even though the Nonaligned Movement is opposed to the formation of blocs and preaches active peaceful coexistence, some of its members do not follow an independent line and have given in to the policy of a known superpower.

2. It is all right for Panama to advocate "relations among the world's nations within the context of true pluralism." However, there must be some reservations, since in some countries pluralism has no place and they think it only applicable to the western hemisphere in order to undermine the democratic institutions.

3. It is prejudicial to say that the "real causes" of the "tremendous political and social crisis in Central America and the existing climate of tension in the Caribbean area... is due to the dramatic imbalances and social injustices which the majority of the people in this region suffer." These, undoubtedly, are the main and oldest causes, but not the only ones. Besides, we must realize that extremist elements are trying to use these imbalances and injustices, as well as the notorious lack of freedom, to impose a Marxist dictatorship, instead of establishing a just social order, within a regime of freedom and democracy. Therefore, President Royo is nearsighted, when he says that "it is unfair to attribute these crises to foreign influence of infiltrations."

Most of President Royo's speech concentrated on the world's present situation, to the detriment of what should have been the main subject of his speech: the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

B. Apparent Respect for Some Principles and Practices

President Royo paid homage to the principles of nonintervention, self-determination, coexistence and cooperation. He adhered to the principle of peaceful solutions to conflicts and also advocated negotiated solutions. He also disapproved of the use of force, the arms race and the "astronomical foreign debt" of underdeveloped countries. If the principles and practices he talked about and if this process for which he is one of the main beneficiaries, would have always been apart of our foreign policy, as well as domestic policy, we would have nothing to object to. However, this is not so. Therefore:

1. With regard to nonintervention and self-determination, the process has not upheld the principle of not promoting armed struggles in the territory of other countries, nor has it prevented in our territory the organization of subversive activities aimed at promoting them.

2. He advocates building "a new international society that makes valid and effective the principles of coexistence and cooperation among states," but nothing has been done for the establishment of a new national society to make valid and effective those same principles among Panamanians, so that in an atmosphere of freedom, democracy and total development, our population can improve spiritually and materially.

3. He expressed support for the peaceful solution of conflicts and, particularly, for negotiated political solutions, and yet he has not moved a finger to try and solve peacefully the great controversy dividing the Panamanians caused by the existing politico-juridical order imposed for the sole purpose of maintaining in power those who today rule the country.

4. It is ridiculous to speak at the United Nations against the use of force and the arms race while in Panama, he is the principal supporter of turning the public force into a superorganism of the state.

5. It is dishonest to refer in New York to the "astronomical foreign debt" that "paralyzes the less developed nations and drains their vital resources, sinking them even deeper in underdevelopment," while in Panama he is one of the main persons responsible for raising the public debt to over 3.5 billion balboas, a figure that surpasses the nation's credit capacity.

C. Suggestion for Solutions

President Royo tries to make believe his government is capable of offering solutions to improve the world situation and put an end to the existing conflicts. In order to do such a thing, it is not enough to offer suggestions; it is also necessary to have the moral authority gained only after having shown the ability to solve domestic problems in his own country. It is not wrong for President Royo to think about the problems affecting the world. He is, however, at the Heron Palace [presidential palace] first of all to solve the nation's problems and give Panamanians a country where freedom, justice and democracy should prevail.

CH. Publicity of the Process

President Royo in his speech rallied for peace, justice, coexistence and cooperation. Although, in that same speech he plays down peace, justice coexistence and cooperation of all Panamanians by distorting the historic fact of our country for the sole purpose of providing publicity for the process.

Firstly, it is untrue that the so-called Panamanian revolutionary process "opened the doors to an authentic democratization" in a country ruled during the past 13 years by governing juntas and presidents appointed by the chief of the public force. Secondly, it is untrue that the Panamanian revolutionary process "democratized the participation of the nation's communities in the debates and decisions of the affairs of the republic through a broad representative and pluralist system that sustains the legislative power." It is sarcastic to speak of the democratization of the system that sustains the legislative power in a country where the electorate is not democratically represented. Less than 10 percent of the voters control the National Assembly of Corregimientos Representatives which, in turn, elects two-thirds of the National Legislative Council members. It is sarcastic to speak of democratization in the face of a legislative body that lacks the legislative and supervisory powers inherent in every democratic country's parliament. It is senseless to speak of pluralism in a system that proscribes in all popular elections the principle of proportional representation of the parties, which makes it possible for all members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council to belong to the same political party.

Thirdly, it is untrue that the changes of the so-called Panamanian revolutionary process "made it possible to consolidate a healthy climate of social tranquillity and of institutional and political stability, and to guarantee respect for human rights and individual freedoms, for the continued peaceful development of the nation."

There is no climate of social tranquillity in Panama as evidenced by the constant labor conflicts, the numerous student clashes and the concern stirred by bills irresponsibly submitted to the National Legislative Council. Moreover, the institutional and political stability mentioned by President Royo is not based, as it should be, on justice, but on the force of the National Guard.

As for the alleged respect for human rights and civic freedoms proclaimed by President Royo, it can be considered no more than a sarcastic expression, considering the innumerable cases of persecution, imprisonment, torture, deportation and death recorded in the 8 long years following the 1968 coup d'etat, in which the victims were national personalities and humble children of the people who disagreed with the de facto government and with the new course imposed by force to the detriment of the traditional democratic system that the Panamanian people have always defended. These cases are recorded in detail in the "Report on the Status of Human Rights in Panama" prepared by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

D. Violations of the Panama Canal Treaty

To MOLIRENA [Nationalist Republican Liberal Movement] the struggle to achieve full sovereignty and to have the United States treat us justly and with the respect that is due every free and independent state and the consideration that our particular special relations demand is an unavoidable task of high priority, as it should be for all Panamanians. For this reason, we cannot understand why the president should have made a spectacular presentation before the United Nations in which he devoted a disproportionate period of approximately 1 hour to world problems while giving a few minutes to the crisis being faced with respect to the application of the Torrijos-Carter treaties in a way that is detrimental to Panama. This situation is in great part the result of demagoguery and sectarian positions that were hardly ever intended to serve the sacred interests of our fatherland.

Regarding the violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty, which President Royo attributes to the implementing laws dictated by the U.S. Congress, it is really said that it is only now that President Royo, who was one of the most prominent negotiators, should realize the disastrous consequences to which our country has been subjected because of the acceptance of a Panama Canal Commission that has been raised to the level of a U.S. Government agency.

E. Request for Respect and Adherence to the Neutrality Treaty

With regard to the neutrality treaty, President Royo's determination to seek, by every means, respect for and adherence to it by all the world's states, despite the fact that the amendments, conditions, reservations and understandings introduced into it unilaterally by the U.S. Senate and subsequently accepted by the Government of the Republic of Panama as integral parts of the treaty have distorted, discredited and thwarted the national demands and aspirations for which the Panamanian people have struggled since 1903 to the point of having sacrificed lives in the bitter events of 1964. [sentence as published]

His persistence in maintaining, as a top government priority in the international sphere, the universalization of the neutrality of the Panama Canal through the subscription of all states to the protocol of said treaty is a policy that could cause Panama greater harm than the violations contained in Law 96-60. It should be noted that while the Canal Treaty expires at midday, Panama time, on 31 December 1999, the neutrality treaty applies in perpetuity and to top it all, places us "under the defense umbrella of the Pentagon," as General Torrijos said with all sincerity on the same day it was signed, after which he added that "if it is not administered judiciously by future generations it could become an instrument of permanent intervention." Those of us who have acted with a sense of history with regard to our relations with the United States, have always said that the only treaty that should have been signed would be one which satisfied the basic demands of the Panamanian nation, demands that could not be abdicated "without compromising the nation's very legitimacy."

Consequently, the only dignified and decorous posture that President Royo could have adopted would have been to repudiate the amendments, conditions, reservations and understandings introduced unilaterally into the neutrality treaty because they are harmful and humiliating to the dignity and sovereignty of the Republic of Panama.

Panama, 9 October 1981, MOLIRENA Board of Directors

COLONEL FLOREZ OUTLINES NATIONAL GUARD IDEALS

PA112226 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 Oct 81 pp 1A, 8A

["Allocution" by Colonel Florencio Florez A., commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard; no date or place given]

[Text] As our country reaches the 13th anniversary of the 11 October revolution, it finds us Panamanians feeling the deepest grief over the physical disappearance of the principal promoter of the new republic.

The loss of Brig General Omar Torrijos Herrera represents, in the first place for the institution, but in a broader sense, for the entire nation, the absence of its maximum revolutionary guide and the absence of one of the most vigorous nationalist leaders in our history.

Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera ceased to be a military leader who brought about profound transformations in the spirit and body of our National Guard. Even the entire Panamanian nation cannot aspire to be the sole beneficiary of his prolific political work. A very large number of countries throughout the world acknowledge his legitimate international status, thus turning him into a figure of truly universal dimensions.

For us Panamanians, his last public appearance, the day we accompanied him to his permanent and eternal resting place, constituted the clearest mass demonstration of gratitude and tribute.

This date calls for the contemplation of all that our armed institute has developed and learned since 1968. Our National Guard is deeply committed to our people. In addition to a great degree of military professionalization and technical advancement, we have achieved a civic maturity which makes us fully aware of our political and social responsibilities.

All of the country's sectors must feel equally protected by our tutelary actions. Businessmen and investors find us safeguarding the social peace, which constitutes an invaluable endorsement of the nation. The students, who are educating themselves to assume the responsibilities of the future, can regard us as custodians of their future. The workers, who through their sacrifice and toil help produce the national wealth, are closely connected with our social doctrine. The farmers, cattlemen, peasants and indians, who till our land with so many problems and so much hope in order to obtain food for the people, deserve our unrestricted respect and support.

Naturally, we were taught that the greatest attention should be given and the greatest emphasis should be placed where there are greatest needs. We have learned that the best social education is the one which combines wealth with social justice. We know that dialogue is the most effective weapon in this convulsed world and we use it as the most powerful missile in our arsenal.

At a time when humankind threatens to turn the world into another Tower of Babel, we are sure that peaceful coexistence necessitates guarantees and respect for democratic pluralism in relation to all ideas.

Our National Guard's doctrine is based on the principles of true civic freedom, sincere equality and Christian fraternity, all of them concepts respected by the great majority of our people. We view the broad path which the various political groups are constructing with interest and sympathy, as it constitutes an authentic path of various expressions needed to coexist peacefully.

On this historic commemoration of the feat of which we were the protagonists, we promise to maintain the country's institutions as a principle of democratic advancement and orderly social development. For this reason, we will guarantee the civilian government led by Dr Aristides Royo, constitutional president of the republic.

As a permanent institution, our goal will be to grow and develop in keeping with our country's progress, along the cleanest and most serene and responsible channels.

This is how our late commander would have wanted it.

This is how we will fulfill it in his memory.

"All for the fatherland"

[Signed] Col Florencio Florez A.
National Guard commander in chief

Supports Honest Elections

PA092126 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Oct 81 p 1, 8-A

[By Reinaldo Labastide]

[Text] Col Florencio Florez Aguilar, commander in chief of the National Guard, yesterday reiterated that the armed organization will be guarantor of "clean and honest" elections in 1984.

The chief of the National Guard made these statements during an informal meeting of the Electoral Tribunal at which Magistrates Luis Carlos Noriega, Dr Arturo Morgan Morales and Dr Rolando Murgas Torrazza were present.

Colonel Florez said that with the holding of honest elections the people of Panama can aspire to strengthen democracy in an atmosphere of tranquillity and security.

The commander praised the different tasks carried out by the Electoral Tribunal in each of the offices that make up the institution.

Florez arrived alone at the Electoral Tribunal. He greeted all his acquaintances in the office and visited the different areas of the institution such as the office of the registrar, as well as the cedula, systems, microfilm, electoral planning and director's offices. Upon his arrival Florez was met by the magistrates who accompanied him on his tour of the facilities. Florez was surprised by the work and efforts accomplished by the Electoral Tribunal in offering better service to the public. During his visit the chief of the National Guard received a gift from the magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the institution.

Magistrate Luis Carlos Noriega, president of the tribunal, said he was pleased with Commander Florez' visit to the Electoral Tribunal, which is a people's organization, for the following reasons:

Florez is the first high-ranking official to visit this institution on the occasion of our silver jubilee which we are celebrating this month. Since Florez recently became chief of the armed forces, he has demonstrated civic interest in and has tried to learn of the task we are quietly accomplishing, over and above the government and opposition political parties, with the sole objective of defending the majority decisions of the Panamanian people. Also, I am aware of Florez' unshakeable will to cooperate and collaborate effectively so that the Electoral Tribunal may fully implement the 1984 elections to help strengthen a representative democracy.

In closing, the president of the Electoral Tribunal magistrates said that the institution he heads, together with the armed forces, registered political parties, independent candidates and teachers of the country, will be able to carry out honest elections in 1984 so that the people of Panama can directly choose in free elections a president, vice president, the 505 members of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and one-third of the members of the National Legislation Council.

LETTER PROTESTS MINING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

PA061425 Panama City QUIUBO in Spanish 4 Oct 81 p 6, 7

[Letter to National Guard Commander Col Florencio Florez from Olimpo Saez, "social communications chairman" of the Popular Nationalist Party; no date given]

[Text] When the General Staff of the National Guard, after the death of Gen Omar Torrijos, called the social organizations of Chiriqui to listen to their comments on the Cerro Colorado mining development project, many people had hopes that the General Staff was beginning an era of rectification in terms of the National Guard's political position on national problems.

Later on, we saw that one of the members of the General Staff had announced some sort of "retreat" by the National Guard from the decisions pertaining to Cerro Colorado. It now turns out that the determination of the national government, comprising a minority of military men and civilians, to carry out the exploitation of that mine is a secret that has been revealed.

Since the deplorable fact that the National Guard continues to hold a great deal of political power is public knowledge and has been made evident, the Popular Nationalist Party believes that the summons addressed to the General Staff in this message is justified.

In these past months, the Cerro Colorado Mining Development Corporation, Codemin, has been hiding behind a guilty silence in the face of objections from various institutions and experts about the ecological and economic feasibility of Cerro Colorado and this silence has caused an even greater feeling of uncertainty and public disbelief. Not even the favorable opinions being given by the foreign experts during their vertiginous ad hoc visits to Panama have managed to dispel the thick tangle of doubts, questions and serious fears that have accumulated on the subject. Because of this, the Popular Nationalist Party feels that it is only logical to ask the General Staff, so that it will reply to the national public, the following questions.

1. Does a ruling military and civilian minority have the right to force the republic, with just one blow, into a debt of 2.5 billion balboas, which is the approximate cost of the Cerro Colorado project?

2. Does that ruling military and civilian minority have that right, after having swamped the country during their 12 years of reign with a crushing public debt of 3 billion balboas?

3. If the fluctuating prices of copper in the world market promise only small increases, why does the ruling military and civilian minority insist on pushing the country into a gigantic economic adventure without any guarantee of success whatsoever and with strong possibilities of failure?

4. Is the ruling military and civilian minority unaware that the hydroelectric plant scheduled to supply energy to Cerro Colorado will provide the opportunity for the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE) to "help" that plant and that, scandalously, the corresponding "fuel adjustment charge" will be paid by the thousands of IRHE consumers, that is, by all of the Panamanian people, exclusively for the benefit of Cerro Colorado?

5. Why has the ruling military and civilian minority permitted transnational companies interested in the exploitation of Cerro Colorado to obtain contracts characterized by legal absolutism and transnational monopoly, by which they will control the enterprise and the production and marketing of the copper, to the detriment of the interests of the Panamanian state?

6. Why does the ruling military and civilian minority refuse to understand that the exploitation of Cerro Colorado will have only a slight and passing effect on the unemployment problem? Is it perhaps not known that during the construction phase a minimum of 60 percent of the workers will have to be skilled workers and that there are no trained Panamanians to meet the requirement? Is it perhaps not known that in the exploitation phase, when there will be only some 2,000 employees, at least 80 percent will be foreigners?

7. Why doesn't the ruling military and civilian minority permit the committee for the integral defense of Chiriqui to participate in choosing foreign technicians, paid by the government, particularly ecological and environmental specialists, so that scientific opinions will not be unilateral, like that of "expert" Jean Tixhon of the World Bank, an entity whose actions have not always been open and free of imperialist propaganda?

8. Why does the ruling military and civilian minority believe that it has the exclusive right to determine the economic and agricultural destiny of Chiriqui Province and why doesn't it allow all of the people of Chiriqui to choose their own destiny by secret ballot?

9. Why doesn't the ruling military and civilian minority tell the country how much the Panamanian state has invested in the Cerro Colorado project to date and provide a detailed breakdown of the amounts spent?

10. How long will a ruling military and civilian minority continue to arrogate to itself the right to compromise present and future generations, as occurred with the negotiation of the 1977 canal treaties, with the Monteria Treaty, with the bridge over the canal and so forth and as is about to occur with Cerro Colorado?

The Panamanian people are awaiting an immediate response as to the truth or falsity of the propaganda campaign orchestrated by antinational interests. [sentence published in boldface] With nationalistic and patriotic greetings, the Popular Nationalist Party.

COMMERCE MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL REFINERY PROBLEM

PA101801 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Oct 81 p 1

[By Jose Montano]

[Excerpts] Arturo Melo, the Panamanian minister of commerce and industries, yesterday clarified that the Panamanian Government will not nationalize the Refineria Panama oil refinery and charged the Texaco company with "pressuring" the government to "force" it to do this. Melo said: "We will not nationalize it at a time determined by interested parties; it will be nationalized when the government feels that it is best for the country's interests."

The minister announced that during the upcoming quarter Mexico and Venezuela are both going to increase their shipments of crude to Panama from 12,000 to 16,000 barrels daily "so we can recover our financing ability." Melo said that the agreement with Texaco includes provisions for the refinery to continue using crude from Mexico and Venezuela. A statement released while Melo was speaking to the newsmen says: "The national government is going to restrict the import of oil derivatives as an incentive to the national industry. It will also levy a first handling tax or first storage tax on refined oil products imported into the country for sale to ships in transit."

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DE LEON ARIAS REELECTED

PA122236 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Oct 81 pp 1, A-18

[Excerpts] The honorable Representative Luis de Leon Arias emerged victorious yesterday when he was reelected president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, after a fierce debate in which his adversaries -- supporting Rafael Clemente Abrego, honorable representative of Sona -- did everything possible to prevent him from getting the votes that would give him the victory. De Leon Arias, a 40-year-old lawyer, is the first president of the assembly to be reelected. He obtained 330 votes for his reelection. The national assembly of Corregimiento representatives also elected the vice presidents yesterday for each province and for San Blas territory.

The following persons were elected:

Mario Vega Morales, for Bocas del Toro; Laudino Vernaza, for Cocle; Thelma de Bonick, for Colon; Venancio Villarreal, for Chiriqui; Almiro Zanapi, for Darien; Lisandro Barria, for Herrera; Manuel Acevedo, for Los Santos; Nora Escala de Garcia, for Panama; Mario Guerra, for Veraguas; Arcadio Martinez, for San Blas.

Homage to the memory of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera was paid during yesterday's session.

EL SALVADOR

ARMED FORCES LEADERS HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE

PA100350 San Salvador YSR Television in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Oct 81

[News conference held at the offices of the Armed Forces Press Committee by Col Jose Guillermo Garcia Merino, minister of defense; Col Francisco Adolfo Castillo, undersecretary of defense; and Col Rafael Flores Lima, armed forces chief of staff -- recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Ladies and gentlemen of the press, it is a source of special satisfaction for us to be here with you again. Colonel Castillo, undersecretary of defense; Colonel Flores Lima, armed forces chief of staff; and I extend a very cordial greeting to you and thank you for your presence. In response to your many requests that a news conference be held, we are pleased to be here with you and we take this opportunity to express our great sorrow and pain over the assassination of the president of Egypt, who is known to us all, a death which has undoubtedly been greatly lamented.

At this time, all flags in El Salvador are at half-mast as a sign of mourning for a man who made great efforts to achieve, to obtain peace. This is the way terrorism pays those who seek peace.

As I said at the beginning, instead of speeches by us, we feel that there are some topics of great significance and importance that you would surely like to mention. Therefore, we want you to begin this event by asking questions or expressing your concerns regarding the course of the Salvadoran process, which is known to us all. We are also interested in in-depth discussions of what is occurring, of the news and the times and we will be willing to answer your questions to the extent of our ability.

Therefore, with pleasure, we turn the floor over to you.

[Question] The Revolutionary Democratic Front and the FMLN have agreed to the mediation offered by the Panamanian Government. Nicaragua apparently also holds the same position of wishing to cooperate, (?so they say) to achieve peace. What is the armed forces position with regard to this?

[Garcia] I am glad that you said, so they say, that they are seeking peace. That is important. I believe that is one of the topics that is being discussed at this time. We are all aware of this position and I would like to say that, according to the information that was available to us, we knew beforehand that the Nicaraguan Government would make a proposal at the United Nations. It was to be a peace proposal, as you said. I can tell you truly that before the event took place, we were happy because, as members of the armed forces who are also interested in seeking possible solutions to our problems, we thought that the proposal would be a specific one, in the sense that the Nicaraguan Government would publicly say that it would no longer continue to provide weapons and ammunition to the subversives in El Salvador. That is what we thought they would say. That is why I say that we were happy.

However, when we heard the proposal, we regretted it deeply for several reasons. You are quite familiar with the text of that statement. The famous French-Mexican declaration was surpassed as regards levels of intervention.

This has been a superintervention. On commenting on this situation, in which there is an attempt to give us a lesson in peace and democracy by those whom I believe do not have the moral authority to do so, one can say that a well-known adage is applicable: They are looking at the splinter in another's eye while ignoring the huge stake that is in their own. I think that adage is being brought out here.

That is why we say that we have been greatly surprised. We have been commenting on this situation and we wondered: Would the Nicaraguan Government agree to have us propose that they restructure their Sandinist army and accept the Somozist National Guard that they expelled from Nicaragua? I think that such a proposal would be equal to theirs.

However, we would not dare to make it because we are respectful, particularly of the Nicaraguan people. I want to be clear that our sentiments are directed against the Nicaraguan Government, but never against the Nicaraguan people, who deserve all our respect.

Now that there is so much talk about solidarity, we have to show more solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, the people who are now oppressed, those people who are now cancelled and sealed [cancelados y sellados]. We would be pleased if, instead of giving advice, they would make the Nicaraguan people's wishes a reality, as well as the wishes of the Nicaraguan press. They are trying to give us lessons in freedom of the press. Although we have a state of siege here, I believe that you are the best witnesses to the fact that we have permitted freedom of the press. In this country one makes statements and comments according to one's opinion and we have respected that. Does the same thing occur in the Republic of Nicaragua? I believe not. Yet they wish to give us lessons in this, just as they wish to give us lessons in democracy. Perhaps the only avenue left to us is to invite them to come here to observe the electoral process and to be present during the elections so that perhaps they may be inspired and may themselves hold elections in Nicaragua.

I tell you truly that it has been very hard for us, as members of the armed institutions, to hear such a proposal which, rather than being a serious proposition, seems ridiculous to us. That is what I could say about the position of the Nicaraguan Government.

[Question] Mr Minister, recently there has been much talk about Chalatenango, about a large-scale military operation. However, there has been no specific data [words indistinct]. We would like to have an official answer about the true situation in that sector at this time?

[Garcia] We will gladly try to answer your question and to this end, I will yield to Col Rafael Flores Lima, armed forces chief of staff.

[Flores] Thank you, Mr Minister. In response to complaints from Chalatenango Department, specifically in the area of the city of Chalatenango, a combing operation was initiated; but not in the sense of the impression that is being given, the impression that it was a great operation or the largest operation that has been launched.

However, it was one of the most successful operations. The combing began in the northern part of Chalatenango and passed through the main area, which was of interest to us, which was the area of (Fillo) Volcano, a mountainous part of the department, near Concepcion, (Saltepeque). From there, a second phase was begun leading toward El Jicaro, near the municipality of Chalatenango.

The results have been interesting. Approximately 110 terrorists were killed. Large quantities of weapons were confiscated; as was interesting informative material. Logically, there was resistance from them in some areas, but all the small camps that they had maintained were brought under control, with the results I have noted.

We also sustained some casualties. We had 12 killed and 15 slightly wounded. The results are logically positive, mainly because the subversives in those camps were taking advantage of a mountainous area to steal cattle and force the people to remain in the areas. We also rescued a member of military detachment No 1 and a national guardsman who had been kidnapped. We learned that the rebels had killed the local commander of a municipality and we recaptured the weapons that had belonged to that local commander. In brief, the operation has been positive from the armed forces' viewpoint. It has been highly positive and we will continue this same type of combing operation wherever the presence of guerrillas is reported.

The armed forces are in the home stretch for ending subversion in this country. We have been trying to make those people understand that it is useless for them to continue to occupy our territory with weapons and ammunition from Nicaragua and that we have had enough of this subversive process in the country.

We have given them enough time to think things over and from now on, any small or medium-sized camp that we discover will be occupied; and if they resist, we will elimiate them.

The subversives in the country have misunderstood the good intentions of the armed forces. With the Nicaraguan Sandinists' action, the subversives might take another direction, but they can be sure that the armed forces will also make more decisive decisions.

We have tried to conciliate them; we have tried to get these people to understand the harm that they are doing to the country. However, there is also a limit to the armed forces' ability to contain and detain the subversive process that is underway in our country. That is all.

[Question] Mr Minister. before Colonel Flores Lima spoke, you replied to a question from our colleague (Jorge Gaitan). However, I would also like to ask you about the position of the armed forces with regard to the position of the Panamanian Government, which has offered to mediate.

[Garcia] The position of the armed forces is one of complete support for the statement already made by the revolutionary government junta, not only as applies to Panama, but also to Nicaragua, as expressed by President Duarte last night in his message to the Salvadoran people. We totally agree with and support that decision, because the armed forces consider this to be, in addition to intervention, a classic offense that we are sure no armed forces in the world would be willing to accept.

We are a professional armed force. We are an armed force with a history. We are an armed force that serves the interests of the Salvadoran people. We are on the side of the Salvadoran people and at no time do we doubt that the Salvadoran people will support us in these circumstances and situations that are of concern to us. Behind the word peace that they use, we believe that they want war. Just look at the way they act. We know; we have information that the subersives in El Salvador want to continue and to expand disruptions of the peace in our country. With hat do they do this? With what do they destroy? With what do they set fires? With what do they kill? Simply with the ammunition and the weapons provided to them by the international Marxist-Leninist bloc through their base in Nicaragua.

Remember that up to 2 days ago, we had been, to a certain extent, respectful when we mentioned Nicaragua. However, given the manner and the path that they have taken in attempting to meddle in our internal affairs, disregarding their own affairs, which we think are in worse shape, we have no alternative but to point out to the world the base, the platform, the springboard for crime, sabotage and subversion that is taking place in El Salvador.

How is it possible for these people, who are manufacturing, who are promoting a disruption of peace in El Salvador, to hypocritically talk about peace? That is the way the armed forces feel. If, to date, the armed forces have been involved in a labor of sacrifice, it has done so for the benefit of the interests of the Salvadoran people, with whom we fully identify. We believe that at this moment in which international opinion is critical, the best answer that we can give to the world is the opinion of the Salvadoran people. We are no longer talking to you of theory, but of practical actions, as was demonstrated on 15 September by a show of absolute and total support for the actions of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, identified with, of course, the opinion of a government which has stated internationally the position of El Salvador with regard to this absurd interference by Nicaragua in the internal affairs of our people.

[Question] You said that up to yesterday you showed total respect for Nicaragua. Are there plans for a break in relations with Nicaragua [words indistinct]?

[Garcia] We said that not only until yesterday, but until the day before yesterday, when the presentation was made at the United Nations. I say this with all respect: We already knew. I think you may have noticed how we always try to avoid certain situations.

Do you remember that famous news conference held 4 or 5 days after the so-called final offensive, when we practically could not say, when it was not advisable to say, that the ships loaded with weapons and men were coming in from Nicaragua? Remember we used to say they might be coming from someplace nearby, but not from Canada? Remember that? It was because of that, because we did not want to directly accuse Nicaragua. Why? Because of the respect that the Nicaraguan people deserve from us. We feel solidarity for that people, whom we morally support to see if they can shake off that which they did not want when they eliminated Somoza. The Nicaraguan people gave of themselves completely. However, they have been completely deceived.

Since the day before yesterday, we have changed that tactic. Now we do mention not Nicaragua, but the Nicaraguan Government, which is interfering in El Salvador's domestic affairs, while sadly serving -- and this is something that we can say -- while sadly lending itself to help the terrorists currently fighting here in El Salvador in connection with their platform and scheme, which seek to continue sowing hatred and violence here in El Salvador. What a sad role the Nicaraguan Government has played! We have no other alternative than to deplore this.

To answer your question: A break or not in our relations with Nicaragua would be in accordance with a scheme strictly outlined by the revolutionary government junta. More specifically, it would be outlined by the Foreign Ministry. Rest assured that we have discussed this, that we have analyzed it, and some guidelines have already been defined. These guidelines will perhaps be announced if necessary. For the time being, we will limit ourselves to saying that such a decision would be made exclusively by the revolutionary government junta, which we invariably respect.

[Queston] Colonel [word indistinct] the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry has recalled our charge d'affaires in Nicaragua. He is already here. Do you believe this might be a step taken prior to a break in relations?

[Garcia] I think that to summon him means to consult with him. Perhaps this could not fall within the practical framework of a break in relations. However, the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry will be the one to decide, the one to say what we should do in this case. All we can say is that as members of the armed forces, we fully support whatever decision is made. At this point, I am not the person who should say this or explain it. I think, however, that the possibility of doing such a thing today is not being considered at this point.

[Question] Colonel, [words indistinct] there are two proposals in this connection. One of them mentions a U.S. base on the Gulf of Fonseca, which would serve to [words indistinct].

[Garcia] I can tell you that is not true. There is nothing there. It is possible that they may seek to have one, but for the time being there is nothing like you mention.

[Moderator] Colonel Flores Lima will add something in this regard.

[Flores] All our regional strategic information points to the fact that Nicaragua is trying to destabilize the region. In the first place, we have reports, or rather intelligence, to the effect that Nicaragua is preparing (?to receive MIG planes soon). Nicaragua is also training pilots in Cuba in the use of MIG-15 planes. [as heard] We have also received information that some 60 or 70 Soviet T-55 tanks with 90-mm cannons [as heard] T-55 carries 100-mm cannon] have also arrived. We have information that some 3,000 men are in Puerto Cabezas and that a similar number are in Managua. They are being trained by Cubans. The landing strips in Puerto Cabezas and in Managua are being repaired so planes of all types can land there. An insurgency school is also oepating in Matagalpa. There is a base on (El Mono) Bay, near the Costa Rican border. We have not yet been able to determine what this is about, but it is of Soviet origin. We have also established clearly that Radio Venceremos' primary antenna is also located in Nicaragua, at Cosiguina Point.

All this interference by Nicaragua in our country is very clear. It seeks to become so powerful that it can destabilize any territory in the area.

We cannot conceal this, nor can we continue as we had until a few days ago, for obvious reasons. It is no longer possible to continue enduring the position held by Nicaraguan Sandinists, like the ones who attended the United Nations a few days ago. All this information is real. It has been confirmed. Nicaragua's intention to destabilize our region is clear. Cuba's presence in Nicaragua has been completely established. This is something Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador must discuss and analyze, as it poses a real threat against our three countries. We can't remain as calm and as relaxed as we had been in the face of this potential threat. We must understand this clearly and objectively.

[Question indistinct]

[Flores] You will soon see that we are treating this case with the utmost seriousness.

[?Garcia] As regards the second question, about the possibility that efforts may be underway to revive CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], the origin of this is the naval maneuver currently underway between the United States and Honduras. If I am not mistaken, this is the 16th such maneuver. In the past, Nicaraguans have also participated in many of them. Now they have sought to create a scandal, in order to justify their internal mobilization in Nicaragua aimed at alerting and (?afflicting) the Nicaraguan people with the information that an invasion is on the way. Four small ships are engaged in a maneuver which has no meaning except that of training personnel. It is regarded as a routine maneuver of a type previously conducted. I do not think this justifies your comment about reviving CONDECA. After all, it is merely a maneuver between the United States and Honduras.

[Question] I understand that the undersecretary of defense (?recently visited several South American countries). [Words indistinct]

[?Garcia] We will let Colonel Castillo answer that.

[Castillo] The reason I visited several South American countries was mostly to give information on our current reality. What happens is that the press is not very loyal to its principle of telling the truth. It often reports in accordance with certain interests and even does so (?very badly, in a way that is not approved of, which has to do with payments received). [Words indistinct, laughter] so all that is commented on and said about our country is quite negative.

I have always believed in the principle of telling the truth. We do not want to be praised if we make mistakes. So let them point out our mistakes. That is even beneficial, since one can correct mistakes if told about them. However, when there is bad intent, when there is prejudice, this is quite harmful. In South America our situation has been totally distorted. I had the chance to talk to the members of the press and questions were asked which were totally removed from anything currently taking place here. There were reports that the terrorists controlled a large part of Salvadoran territory and that they had occupied this territory to the point that the armed forces could not even approach this zone. Reports have been released to the effect that all the massacres of peasants connected with the agrarian reform cooperatives were carried out by the armed forces. You can imagine how the South American peoples are being informed. Our visit, therefore, sought to publicize the truth. We think that our goal has been truly achieved. Many questions were explained. We told them what happens here rather than what is reported there.

[Question] (?Yanes). Several European countries [words indistinct] FMLN is on the threshold of victory. It is also said, however, that a [word indistinct]-type regime rules here in El Salvador.

[?Garcia] Well, on 10 January they claimed they were on the threshold of victory also, yet here we are in October. Perhaps theirs is a long threshold. Today I was reading something on this, though. They have the idea that we have a Pinochet-type regime here. I do not think we can draw comparisons with any government. This is a Salvadoran Government, which responds to El Salvador's current needs.

However, this is mostly due to what we have always said about international misinformation. They think -- and this is something we have already said on several occasions -- that what we have here is a struggle between the people -- this is how they put it -- and the government and armed forces. When they come here, they realize that this is not the case. We have always noted that once here in El Salvador, those who come with this idea, start wondering where is the war being fought, since it is claimed that people are killing each other between the houses, that people cannot mobilize, that nobody can walk around and so forth. All this is the result of the misinformation that the Marxist bloc has spread throughout the world in order to create the idea that the people here nave rebelled against the government and against the armed forces.

[Question] Mr Minister, in connection with the electoral process here in El Salvador, it has been said and it has already been published in certain international (?dispatches) that a U.S. State Department official visited El Salvador and met with government officials and political parties representatives. It has also been reported that one of (?your) proposals suggested the restructuring, at least at the middle level, of the civilian government. In other words, governors and ministers, who should not belong to one party exclusively, but to various parties. This would result in greater credibility in the electoral process, which we all desire so there can be peace.

[?Garcia] Of course.

[Question] However, since nothing has been said here in El Salvador in connection with this, I would like you to tell us something about it. I have another question. Are there any plans to lift the state of siege and the curfew in order to increase the people's trust in a free electoral process?

[Garcia] Regarding the first question, we did talk to the U.S. envoys in order to analyze the current situation here in El Salvador in connection with the elections. We did talk, but we are not aware that any proposal was made in this connection. As far as we are concerned, we only talked about possible guarantees, about how the armed force will encourage that electoral climate, which the people want, which the people need. We talked about these things. I do not know, and therefore could not answer the first part of your question. As regards your second question, it was about... [questioner interrupts]

[Question] Whether or not there are any plans to... [Garcia interrupts]

[Garcia] Well, we are sure of one thing. We cannot have elections either under a state of siege or under martial law. We are sure of that, right? We don't need people from other countries to tell us that. We are aware of that. However, this must be done in accordance with the needs we perceive. Rest assured that measures will be adopted in this regard. These measures are currently being analyzed.

[Question] Mr Minister, please excuse me because I arrived a little late [words indistinct] my question does not reflect reality [words indistinct]. I understand that the presence of Russia and Cuba in Nicaragua has been detected, that they have their eyes on El Salvador and that in this case Nicaragua is on a war footing. What is the situation in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador? Are they also preparing (?for war)?

[Garcia] Col Flores Lima will say something.

[Flores] What we have wished to indicate is that Nicaragua's attitude in the Central American area is completely belligerent. That is, all signs indicate clearly and truly that they are preparing for something. We wish to warn the peoples of the region and of the world, and some who believe that Nicaragua is maintaining a positive attitude of peace, that this is completely untrue. We have also noted that 8 months after having initiated the final offensive, they believe that perhaps tomorrow, a number of ambushes and sabotage could begin. [sentence as heard] Therefore, the subversives have stepped up their violence and their positions on roads and highways. The armed forces is alert and aware of all this.

However, we want to warn the civilian population to be very careful with regard to all the positions of the subversives. We are present all over the country. But they should remember that the subversives move around dressed as civilians and are apparently unarmed and may take action against bridges, vehicles, persons, as they have been doing. We have been informed that these actions may be stepped up 8 months after the final offensive began.

I wish to reiterate our opinion that Nicaragua's warlike attitude is not conducive to actions of peace, but to other types of action. That is all.

[Question] Guillermo Ungo said at the United Nations that if there was no mediation or dialogue, the extreme leftists would step up their actions. The political parties have also said that, if there is no peace for the holding of elections, there will be no elections. Therefore, what action is the armed forces going to take, or at least what guarantees will be extended to the candidates that will be presented by the political parties? There is fear within the political parties [words indistinct] and if there are no guarantees for the candidates, very few people will agree to be nominated as candidates for deputy.

[Flores] Regarding the first question, I would like to make a comment that was made by a person who was at the United Nations 2 days ago. He said that there was a person there who resembled the person that you have just mentioned, but that the person was a Nicaraguan. It was Mr Ungo, but he was in the Nicaraguan delegation. It was later confirmed that it was Mr Ungo, but he appeared to be Nicaraguan. That was the presentation that was made at the United Nations, since the Nicaraguan Government lent itself for that purpose. They were unable to find any other country. It had to be the Nicaraguan Government that lent itself for this situation. This is not the first time that they have expressed this position. They have been saying the same thing from the very beginning: That if there is no mediation, if there is no dialogue, if there is no understanding, they will increase their actions.

Before 10 January, we said that we accepted this, but they never agreed, because they based their hopes on the two main factors: first, on their guerrilla actions and second, on the people's support. Neither of the two things gave them results. Now, they turn to the other alternative, to seek what? To seek the same thing, to fool everyone by giving the impression that we have discussed in detail. Therefore, we think that it is a scheme that they have used to try to achieve their objectives.

As far as guarantees are concerned, we say that it is difficult to commit oneself and state emphatically that there will be absolute and total guarantees. We are seeing cases. There is the case of the assassination of the president of Egypt. Despite great security, despite great potential for giving such a guarantee, it cannot be given. Therefore, we do not want to give the impression here that we are stating that we are absolutely giving total guarantees. However, we will give all possible guarantees and this includes our attitude, our efforts. However, basically the guarantee will be given by the people themselves. We have had confidence in the Salvadoran people and we say that they are the first guarantors of this situation and that it will be the Salvadoran people themselves, who, using their vital power, will carry out the elections. We are almost sure of this. Let us hope that this will be the case. And now, we dare to say, as we have done always, that we hope those persons will realize their error and find the path that we all need.

We have already said this in public. May God enlighten them so that they will find their path and realize the truth. May they follow in the footsteps of the Jesuit priest Pellecer in his repentance and stop doing such great harm to our country, which is already tired of so much evil. That is all.

[?Garcia] Thank you very much for your attention and you may be sure that you always have our respect and appreciation.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY GUATEMALA'S LUCAS GARCIA

Guatemalans View Situation

PA140321 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 13 Oct 81 pp 3, 35

[Article by Ismael Beltran Solano]

[Excerpts] "Nicaragua's arms race is not for national defense purposes, but to export communism to the rest of Central America," Guatemalan President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia said yesterday when interviewed by EL DIARIO DE HOY during his brief visit to our country. He said that the idea of meeting with Salvadoran officials is positive because it allows them to talk, exchange points of view and understand that the Guatemalan and Salvadoran problems are the same and that they confront the same international threat.

"We know, he added, who is promoting subversion and we believe that the best thing to do is to exchange experiences in order to organize our efforts and try to bring peace and prosperity to our peoples in the near future so that they can follow a democratic path. This is our wish.

He was asked if he believed that this meeting was held because of statements made by the Nicaraguan Sandinist government. "No, I don't think so," he replied. He then added that the Nicaraguans will continue making statements as long as they are under communist domination. "We want our peoples to find their own way and not be led astray by alien ideologies," he said.

Meanwhile, Guatemalan Defense Minister Gen Luis Rene Mendoza Palomo was asked if they had any meetings scheduled with the Honduran Government. He replied, "We are always willing, if our Honduran brothers so desire, to sit down and discuss our problems."

He was then asked, what would El Salvador's and Guatemala's next step be. "As always, we shall maintain our traditional good relations and fraternal ties and help our respective peoples find peace and progress."

He was told that Salvadoran Defense Minister Col Jose Guillermo Garcia had said that Nicaragua is a latent threat to Central America and was asked if he shared that opinion. "Yes, absolutely," was his reply and he added that, logically, recent statements by Nicaragua, which has declared its militant Leninism, give us an idea of its threat to Central America and of what Nicaragua means to our countries.

"We Must Eradicate Communism From Central America"

"You can be sure that our country and especially its armed forces are ready to cooperate with you to eradicate, once and for all, this threat which retards our people's development. However, we are sure that in the near future our people will recover their momentum and achieve their desired goals in a democratic manner," he said.

In the afternoon, Guatemalan President Gen Lucas Garcia and Defense Minister General Mendoza Palomo met with Salvadoran Government junta President Jose Napoleon Duarte, Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, Defense Minister Col Jose Guillermo Garcia, Col Francisco Adolfo Castillo and Chief of Staff Col Rafael Flores Lima.

Rumors of Three-Nation Army

PA131638 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Excerpt] Reports on the imminent creation of a joint military force of the armies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras that originated in El Salvador over the past weekend were intensified in the Salvadoran capital yesterday as a result of the brief visit made by Guatemalan President Romeo Lucas Garcia to El Salvador.

Here is the report on the rumors of an imminent military alliance among El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras dispatched from San Salvador by AFP's special correspondent (Juan Nicolas Gaudenzi):

Reports of the imminent creation of a joint military force of the armies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, which circulated last weekend in San Salvador, intensified with the brief visit that Guatemalan President Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia paid to El Salvador.

The trip took place a few hours after Gc Benedicto Lucas Garcia, brother of the president and chief of staff of the Guatemalan Armed Forces, said that he advocated unity among the armies of the three states -- El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras -- to confront the leftist guerrillas in Central America, who are supported by Cuba.

In the same trend, but this time pointing to Nicaragua as the main threat to stability in the region, Col Rafael Flores Lima, Salvadoran army chief of staff, on Friday mentioned the need for coordinated action by the aforementioned anticommunist regimes of Central America.

The meeting, attended by General Lucas; Rafael Castillo Valdez, his foreign minister; Gen Manuel Mendoza Palomo, Guatemalan defense minister; the civilian-military government junta of El Salvador; and the Salvadoran Armed Forces High Command, took place at a time of maximum tension in relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Joint Communique Issued

PA131542 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Communique issued on Guatemalan President Romeo Lucas Garcia's visit to El Salvador; no place, date given]

[Text] The president of Guatemala, Maj Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, accepting a friendly invitation extended by President Jose Napoleon Duarte on behalf of the revolutionary junta of the Government of El Salvador, made an official visit to San Salvador on 12 October 1981. In an atmosphere of fraternal friendship, the two heads of state analyzed the international and regional political situations with emphasis on bilateral relations, noting with satisfaction the similarity of the positions taken by their two countries -- united by identical origins and by their affinity in goals -- on several aspects of international and bilateral issues.

The two heads of state recognized the right of their two countries' citizens to live in a more just and equitable society, based on respect for legal order and peace and without extremism and destructive antisocial violence, in support of the changes being implemented for economic development and social justice.

The president of the revolutionary government junta of El Salvador explained that his government internationally asserts and defends the premise that his country's crisis must be solved by political means through a free electoral process -- the highest expression of the people's will -- and that he considers a dialogue among all legally registered political parties, with the logical exception of those groups that refuse to give up violence and terrorism, to be a fundamental factor.

The president of Guatemala reiterated his government's position that it is up to the Salvadorans alone to find a solution to the current situation, by fully exercising their legitimate right to elect their leaders through a democratic and institutional process. For the people and Government of Guatemala, he added, it will be greatly satisfactory to see El Salvador reach the peace and tranquillity it deserves upon completion of this electoral process.

The two heads of state reiterated their belief in the efficacy of the electoral process as the best way for the people to express their will.

In view of the upcoming elections for the presidency and for other top positions in the Republic of Guatemala and the elections to form a constituent assembly in the Republic of El Salvador, they fervently vowed that these processes are for the Guatemalan and Salvadoran peoples, a genuine civic occasion to strengthen faith in democratic procedures. They reaffirmed their policy of absolute respect for the vital principles of nonintervention and for the dignity and sovereignty of states, which are indispensable to peaceful coexistence among nations, based on the welfare and development of the people.

The president of Guatemala recalled that his government, together with those of other Latin American countries, expressed opposition to the intervention in the internal affairs of El Salvador, an unacceptable action that went as far as to recognize the armed subversive groups as the opposition's representative political force.

The heads of state agreed in their rejection of the pretention of submitting any country's internal problems to the consideration of an international forum. In this respect, they felt that it was time to recall the contents of paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the UN Charter, which establishes that no disposition in the Charter can authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters that essentially fall under the jurisdiction of states as internal affairs, nor can the United Nations force its members to submit those issues to procedures established by the Charter.

Maj Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia said that in the face of the mockery made of Guatemala's good faith by Great Britain's concession of unilateral independence to Belize and its refusal to fulfill the basis of understanding signed on 11 March 1981 in London, his government decided to sever consular relations with England and formally established Guatemala's rights over that territory, to be rendered effective at the proper time through a peaceful solution, as established by international law.

The Guatemalan head of state termed the pseudoindependence of Belize an illegitimate act, because his government neither recognizes that territory as a state nor accepts the lines maintained by the British occupation forces as borders. Therefore, for Guatemala, Belize has no legal status, nor is it a sovereign state of Central America; and, for the same reasons, Guatemala does not grant Belize the right to be a member of the United Nations, of the OAS or of any international organization.

The president of the revolutionary junta of the Government of El Salvador expressed his wish that the case of Belize be satisfactorily solved, to the benefit of the parties concerned and of tranquillity in the region.

The two heads of states agreed to point out that the external factors affecting the Central American region require firm support for all actions to reactivate Central American integration, in accord with the reality in the area, as the most feasible way of promoting the economic and social development of the peoples of Central America.

They expressed their concern about the current state of the world's economy, particularly the sharp deterioration in terms of exchange, rendering international negotiations on the establishment of a more just international economic system, which takes into consideration the real needs of developing countries, increasingly more important. In this respect, they regretted the fact that Central America will not be present at the next negotiations session.

The two heads of state recognized the need to recover and strengthen the moral, spiritual and civic values that have governed the life of the people of Guatemala and El Salvador, to face the threat of trends toward disintegration and totalitarianism.

The two countries' ministers of state held meetings and exchanged views on possible solutions to issues in their respective fields, in the interests of the peoples of Guatemala and of El Salvador. The president of Guatemala expressed his appreciation for the kind hospitality and his satisfaction at visiting the sister republic to the president of the revolutionary junta of the Government of El Salvador.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CHIEF'S COMMENTS ON 3-NATION ARMY REPORTED

Reportedly Denies Plans

PA131538 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 12 Oct 81

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Oct (ACAN-EFE) -- Gen Benedicto Lucas Garcia, chief of staff of the Guatemalan Army, said today that there are no plans to unite the Armies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras for joint actions against the leftist guerrillas.

The military officer denied international news reports to the effect that the Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Honduran Armies were considering a merger to confront the guerrilla groups operating in the northern part of Central America.

"The Guatemalan Army has been actively combatting guerrilla subversion and, in our case, does not need the cooperation of other countries' military forces," Lucas Garcia said.

He added: "Similarly, the Guatemalan Government is not prepared to intervene in the domestic affairs of El Salvador, Honduras, or of any other state."

Reportedly Favors Merger

PA140225 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 81

[Text] Guatemala -- Brig Gen Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia, chief of staff of the Guatemalan Army said today that he is in favor of merging the Armies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras in order to form a northern triangle to eradicate leftist subversion.

BOMB EXPLODES NEAR U.S. EMBASSY; GUARD KILLED

PA111905 Paris AFP in English 1848 GMT 11 Oct 81

[Text] Guatemala City, 11 Oct (AFP) -- Three persons were killed here this weekend in a series of terrorist attacks, one against the U.S. Embassy, police said today. All the attacks occurred last night. In one of them, a U.S. Embassy sentry was shot dead by unknown gunmen a few minutes after a bomb exploded in front of the embassy.

Another person was killed when a bomb exploded near the residence of the Defence Minister, General Anibal Guevara. A third person died when a bomb exploded outside the army bank in the city centre, close to the parliament building. A bomb also exploded outside air force headquarters in the southern part of the city, and continuous shooting was heard in the area for an hours. No casualties have been announced.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attacks.

ERP Claims Credit

PA132003 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Excerpt] Leaflets illegally circulating today credited the People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] with the terrorist actions carried out in Guatemala City on Saturday evening. According to the EGP document, members of the subversive group placed bombs in front of the Banco del Ejercito, behind the honor guard headquarters and near the Civil Aeronautics Building and also participated in a shootout in front of the U.S. Embassy.

NICARAGUA

BAYARDO ARCE SPEECH AT ANTI-INTERVENTION RALLY

PA112047 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1724 GMT 11 Oct 81

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Political Committee, at rally which is part of nationwide 'Benjamin Zeledon Anti-Intervention Drive,' in Rigoberto Lopez Perez Plaza in Managua -- live]

[Text] Brothers who led this anti-imperialist mobilization and who today are presiding over this brief gathering; brother reservists, militiamen, Sandinist Defense Committee [CDS] members, people who marched from 19 July Plaza to this Rigoberto Lopez Plaza to reaffirm the Nicaraguan people's anti-imperialist position:

After 1 week of mobilizations, some people might think that there's nothing new to say, that there's not much to say anymore. We have heard some people ask why we continue with these mobilizations if the imperialist Hawk View maneuvers ended a couple of days ago. This confirms our belief that we need to take advantage of these rallies, these militant mobilizations, to daily analyze the reasons why our people must remain in high combat readiness, reasons which are and will continue to be valid.

A companero of the CDS reminded us of the U.S. representative's reply to our responsible and mature proposal at the United Nations. However, it is not only the fact that a U.S. Government official has said four absurd things, four lies or four insults. What concerns us is that in the U.S. Government's reply to our proposal we are seeing that the outlook for the Central American region tends to be increasingly more difficult and complex. The future of our peoples looks gray and the revolutionaries of all Central America, especially those of us in Nicaragua who are in a better position, are committed to not letting down our guard a single moment. [applause]

In the broad political exchanges that the Sandinist revolution has had with the international community, we have made known to the political leaders of other countries that the serious problem of El Salvador lies in the fact that if the present trends in that country continue, no one can rule out imperialist aggression in El Salvador, intervention of reactionary regimes in El Salvador, along with aggression against Nicaragua -- becuase Nicaragua has been officially and directly warned by U.S. imperialism that we have to stop all aid to El Salvador, and Nicaragua will never accept those demands. [applause]

When we decided to raise our hands, which we have extended for quite some time to the Salvadoran revolutionaries, and raise their flag in the United Nations, we sought, among other things, to draw humankind's attention to the maturity and responsbility of our Salvadoran revolutionary brothers. They are making a political effort to find a solution to the war in their country and, they, like any sensible politician, are aware that if no solution is found to the Salvadoran problem, there will surely be increased efforts to attack us. Intervention is even more possible and the rest of the Central American peoples and governments will continue to be pressured. They were well aware that a mature stance had to be manifested in order to confront this situation.

That is why when we heard the U.S. reply we had almost said that our fate was sealed. Rifles will have to be duly cocked. [applause] Thus, we are not mobilizing due to Hawk View; we have taken it into account as a policy to intimidate us. However, we are mobilizing and we will continue to mobilize in various forms after this drive so that our people will keep their combative spirits high, so that no one will be deceived into thinking that easy days are coming, and so that the imperialists and the reactionaries will know that any move against Nicaragua will have to be paid for dearly. That is why it makes sense to continue to mobilize.

This makes even more sense after imperialism's reply, which has been a rejection to our efforts of finding a political solution to the Central American problem. We see that the genocidal Salvadoran Government echoes that position and rejects any political solution. Even more serious, we are finding out today that the chiefs of staff of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan Armies, the most genocidal armies in Central America and Latin America, have met to jointly analyze what they will do with Nicaragua.

Under these conditions where soldiers, armed by imperialism, are killing their people, and meetings are being held to see what they will do with Nicaragua, who can dare think that Nicaragua can let its guard down and that the people don't have to be continuously mobilized? Only the friends of imperialism, only the lackeys of imperialism can think this.

We will have to continue with these drives even if they take different forms because the problem doesn't stop there. Costa Rica, despite its tranquillity, has been shaken in recent days by the specter of a coup d'etat. Why is there talk of a coup d'etat in Costa Rica? There is talk of a coup d'etat in Costa Rica because they believe that the current Costa Rican Government is very friendly with the Nicaraguan Government, because it supported and supports the Sandinist revolution. As a result, they can't count on Costa Rica as a rearguard to attack the Nicaraguan revolution. The limit of shamelessness has been reached in politics when the Costa Rican Assembly -- which has so many democratic traditions and autonomous positions -- in the face of the pressures of imperialism, recently issued a moral condemnation of the Costa Rican president for having supported the Sandinist revolution. It is incredible to see how the economic pressures and political blackmail of imperialism are disturbing the Central American situation.

And what can we expect, if the U.S. policy of plunder in this region for centuries has left us impoverished and the people are not yet the protagonists of the politics of each country and only a few politicians control the situation. The panorama is grey because the Costa Rican president is condemned because he gave us his support. There is talk of a coup d'etat. Strange movements have begun while the rightwing calmly moves in Costa Rica and counterrevolutionary camps have begun to emerge along its borders.

And who can think that we must let down our guard in Nicaragua? Who but an insane person can think that the Salvadoran revolutionaries are going to put away their rifles to go to an electoral farce? Who can think that a single Central American revolutionary is not right now preparing his resources for a difficult struggle which is the only alternative we have left? Nevertheless, we find that there are some who think this. We find that these rightwing politicians in Nicaragua are upset because they say we treat them too harshly. And how can we not treat them harshly after seeing what they do in these circumstances?

Our proposal at the United Nations has only been attacked by three sectors: U.S. imperialism attacked us, the genocidal Salvadoran junta attacked us and Robelo and the other rightwing parties attacked us. This is no coincidence. They think the same way. They are the extension of the imperialist policy in our country. Right now, they are very happily saying that among themselves in a farce they staged in Costa Rica involving so-called democratic parties, where they gave all the delegates documents which show that we are a communist revolution so these will be spread to the world and we will be denied aid. What can you tell these people who did this and who have come back delighted because their documents were accepted?

We who are keeping track of each of these actions can only give the reply that Humberto [Defense Minister Ortega Saavedra] gave some days ago in a Face the People program regarding what we will do about the bourgeoisie and the rightwing at the time of an aggression. We have already told them and everyone that if we are attacked, all our forces will go to the battlefront and we will not permit a single action in the rearguard. [applause]

However, let's not be deceived in this. Some of us have found it difficult to understand some positions of groups which call themselves revolutionary.

It has been very hard, very difficult, for us to forget some really antirevolutionary attitudes which they adopted when we fought against the dictatorship. However, on behalf of national unity, we have made a conscious effort to attract those forces to this process. It is increasingly difficult to understand these things. We are surprised to see a pamphlet, a smear sheet, put out by an organization which says it represents the working class, the so-called CAUS [Labor Action and Unity Federation], which says it is Marxist-Leninist, anti-imperialist and revolutionary and which, when we took El Salvador's flag to the United Nations, when we placed all our people in high combat readiness, when we confiscated the property of more than 50 bourgeoisie after the 19 July anniversary and when we applied harsh measures against the price gougers and the defrauders, those individuals say here that the revolution has been sidetracked and that we are following a proimperialist policy. It is hard to believe that someone could do this.

The leaders of the Communist Party, which is politically sponsoring this organization, say that those statements do not respond to the party's line. They have promised to denounce them publicly. They have said that some party dissidents published them. We would like to believe that because really we do not see any difference between this pamphlet and Robelo's actions. In it we see two agents of imperialism, two enemies of the people and of the revolutionary government. [applause] We do not believe in titles and uniforms worn by people. We do not believe in those who call themselves democrats, revolutionaries and progressives. We believe in revolutionaries, democrats, progressives, strugglers who are willing to give their lives for what they believe. [applause]

This is an act of sabotage in the rearguard, of disloyalty to the people's interests. We, who have discussed the economic difficulties with all sectors, and who are facing a crisis imposed on us by imperialism -- and who are trying to see what can we do to overcome it -- cannot accept seeing anyone misuse the information we have given them to make them understand the problems. We cannot accept having them turn around and manipulate that information to deceive sectors of the population. Therefore, we must keep the fighting spirit high and on the go because the enemies are not only in the United States, in the rightist regimes of Central America and not even in the well-known rightist groups in the country; they also exist in the so-called leftist groups. [applause]

Companeros, we really believe that these mobilizations should serve for an exchange of views, to find out about these things and for each of us to become a bulwark in defense of the revolution. Each one of us must go his workplace, to his neighborhood, to his social environment, and explain the situation to other Nicaraguans. This is going to allow us to be prepared.

Instead of having these parades and mobilizations which we have carried out to show our energy, we have things to do. The companero here already talked about the campaign against malaria. We have to eradicate malaria in Nicaragua. We have to free the people from this plague. For many years the people have been suffering from malaria. We had planned to begin the campaign on 14 October. We already announced that it was postponed until the beginning of November, because we still are not organized. We need the personnel, apparatus and technology necessary to eradicate malaria in 3 days by having the entire population take the tablets. Then we must make good use of these days because we have already seen how imperialism does not hesitate to spread diseases, to carry out bacteriological wars and slowly murder the people.

When we talked to Enders -- would you believe that according to these guys, it was from the time of his visit that we stopped fighting -- Enders told us that if we did not accept the views of imperialism our relations would deteriorate still more. They would deteriorate more than they are? Our country is one of the few in the world which has the pride and honor of not receiving any more U.S. aid until 1982.

What more can they do to us? We have been the target of the vilest campaigns. What more can they do to us? They can do two things to us: Boycott and shut down our markets and set up an economic blockade against us. They can also attack us militarily.

That is why since last year we have been saying that the tasks of the revolution are its defense and its production. We must prepare ourselves against a military attack and to prevent them from starving us to death. We will have to wage big battles to increase production with the same enthusiasm that we joined the militias, the reserve battalions and the literacy and antimalaria brigades. We must get ready to join the brigades to harvest coffee and cotton, because we are having problems and we are going to continue to have problems during the harvest. There are tasks we have to face at any moment and we must be prepared.

We should be willing to participate in these activities with a high spirit of sacrifice. We must maintain a critical spirit to point out when a sector is not living up to what is expected. We must help each other through constructive criticism when one is not striving for the goals we have set forth. This is our only hope and the only way we can carry out the task of strengthening and supporting the revolutionary efforts of other countries.

Let no one be deceived. We will continue our mobilization in the next days, weeks, months and perhaps years. We will continue with a basket in one hand harvesting coffee and a rifle in the other.

Free fatherland [crowd shouts: "Or death"] [applause]

FSLN COMMANDERS COMMENT ON 'DIRECT LINE' PROGRAM

PA100023 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Oct 81

["Direct Line" phone-in program with Commander Rene Nunez, secretary of the FSLN National Directorate; Commander Osvaldo Lacayo, deputy chief of staff of the Sandinist People's Army; and Commander Roberto Calderon; moderated by Wilfredo Lopez Balladares -- live]

[Excerpts] [Question] This is Gerardo Florez of the Las Perlas neighborhood. My question is addressed to Commander Osvaldo Lacayo. The people are completely mobilized. I think the most advisable thing would be to mobilize our people in civil defense, to prepare them for mass bombings. The people should know what must be done and how to act to avoid problems. People in the hospitals, schools and housing projects should be prepared with a defense system. They should be told what to do and bomb shelters must be built, since we don't have any here. This is my suggestion.

[Lacayo] Yes, Companero Gregorio Florez Mareco, who is known as Goyo. We know you, through the various projects and proposals you have sent to the army's general staff, as a Nicaraguan who is very interested in solving the problems of defense. We completely agree with you on the need for our people to involve themselves in defense tasks. We gained much experience in Nicaragua during the war on how to protect ourselves, during the criminal bombings of the Somozist air force. This experience was gained in all Nicaraguan towns, primarily through the organizational help of our main mass organizations during the struggle against Somoza. This was done through the civil defense committees. This is now the task of all of the people, through the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] and the Sandinist Peoples Militias [MPS]. Through them we should all prepare ourselves for the civil defense of the population.

Companero Florez, since you know about the military laws, you must understand that battles are waged on several fronts. In the main war fronts, the troops protect themselves from air attacks with antiaircraft systems. In the same way, the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] has been gradually, but with much effort and dedication, preparing the defense of all of our fatherland and its skies. However, this defense cannot be complete if it does not include the participation of our people. Therefore, we must gradually get ready to receive instructions from the mass organizations, mainly through the MPS and the CDS, on preparing the various types of defenses. So, companero, we have to be ready to receive this kind of instruction. I'm sure that together we will be able to protect all of our people from the criminal effects of air attacks.

[Question] What role in defense will the mass organizations play in regard to the reactionary and traitorous bourgeoisie, which is supposedly an internal front? What measures will be taken? I am Mario Perez, from the San Antonio neighborhood of Jinotepe.

[Nunez] Companero Perez, you know that there is a revolution in Nicaragua and that the reactionaries and imperialists don't like revolutions. They are the main enemies of revolutions. (?Their efforts) are very strong. They have a lot of experience. They make good use of propaganda and frequently create myths through its use.

We have know of various projects that basically comprised small groups of men calling themselves an internal front, an armed force and so forth. They have a lot of names and they are just a few individuals. What should the organized people do to face these small groups? Logically, the best guarantee of destroying and liquidating them, from the historical point of view, so that they won't harm the revolution, so that they won't impede and delay the revolution when they find they can't destroy it, is the force of organization, of work, of consolidation, of construction of the revolution. You know that there are various mass organizations, including the very important CDS, whose organizational work among the masses includes work for the defense of the revolution. They can contribute to the identification of individuals who support those groups, so that the appropriate institutions of the revolutionary state can take the necessary measures to liquidate them politically and organizationally.

So the work of the organized masses is essentially to consolidate the revolution and to carry out the tasks the revolution demands, in order to truly overcome any kind of political problem that might feed the hopes of those groups. As Commander Lacayo said, only the united and organized people can confront the attacks and imperialism's desire to destroy this revolution.

[Question] Good evening, Commander Rene Nunez. My name is (Myrna Cisne), from Granada. This is my question: In the case of a serious invasion of Nicaragua, would friendly countries be asked to help? Thank you.

[Nunez] I don't know what you consider a serious invasion of Nicaragua. We think that in the matter of wars, of fighting a war, we have never been war-oriented. Basically, we have sought peace; we have sought work in order to achieve progress and the benefit of the people. Nonetheless, we are (?logically) willing to defend our country, our revolution and our people. On the basis of those concepts and conditions, I know that we are willing to fight a war which, (?theoretically) would be waged to defend the Nicaraguan people and their revolution. Within the framework of this concept, logically there are wars which, due their causes, are just. There are other wars which are unjust due to their respective motives. In our case, if we are attacked and are forced to wage a war to defend ourselves from the aggression, the war would be just. Historically, just wars are valid and have always triumphed. This has been so because the forces waging those wars are fighting the forces opposing the progress and development of humankind. Commander Lacayo said a while ago in answer to one of the questions that the human elements, the men, are more valuable than the means of war, that is the weapons. Our people are sufficiently experienced, they have been sufficiently heroic, they are quite organized, they love this revolution. This is our major force. In the face of any type of aggression, Nicaraguans, Nicaraguan revolutionaries, must rely mainly on their own forces. This does not mean that, depending on the type of attack -- because at this point it is very difficult to speak of a war exclusively between two countries, especially when a revolution is involved. [sentence as heard] In his UN speech, Commander Ortega said that there is a serious threat to this area, to the Central American and Caribbean regions. A counterrevolutionary war against any small and weak country, (?such as those in Central America), would imply a regional war. So we cannot venture an answer suggesting that we will would involve a number of forces in a war among several countries. We are sure and willing to fight our war if we are attacked; to defend our country with our own forces if we are attacked, and to rely mainly on our own means to defend ourselves. However, we have many friends throughout the world. Many forces supported us in the past and still support us today.

We know that in the diplomatic and political battle, and even in the case of a military confrontation, they will be willing to defend the just cause of the Nicaraguan people. Depending on the type of enemy and the type of terrain in any such war, we will know how to fight and with what forces we have to do it. We insist, however, that first of all, the Nicaraguan people and their revolution have a great force, the force of the entire organized Nicaraguan people, who are willing to fight their war and to win it. Then, there are the various friendly and fraternal peoples who support us at present.

[Lopez] So we would not be alone, Commander?

[Nunez] We would not be alone, but neither will we involve any other country in a Nicaraguan war. We will simply respond to the aggressions by using our forces. We will simply respond in accordance with the international situation. At this point, an attack on our country would create an international commotion. It would be a topic of great interest to many friendly and enemy forces. It would represent a regional upheaval. So it is not our desire to involve other countries. However, the mere attack on revolutionary Nicaragua would involve other countries and other forces.

[Lopez] There is always the risk that a local war might be not only the beginning of a local war, but also the beginning of an international conflict of major proportions.

[Nunez] From the moment of victory and even before it, Nicaragua has raised the flag of peace. Other forces are the ones raising the flag of war. At present, and due to imperialism's aggressive policies, the possibility that a local war, a war involving just one country might be waged is not being considered. There is talk of protecting an area, which they consider strategic -- the Central American and Caribbean areas. There is talk of waging a war involving several countries. There is talk of setting in motion a number of forces in an area which includes not only Nicaragua, but all of Central America. So the ones raising the issue of war are thinking about a particular area.

[Question] Good evening, Companero Nunez. This is (Bayardo Catin), of Las Brisas neighborhood. My question is this: Why aren't those of us who carry out revolutionary vigilance given weapons to defend ourselves? At this point, threats are latent and I think all of us in charge of revolutionary vigilance are identified with the process. So I don't think that there should be any distrust about giving us weapons. That is my question.

[Nunez] First of all, companero, the revolution does not distrust the revolutionary Nicaraguan people. (?They have had) weapons (?or) weapons have been put in the people's hands. Nonetheless, there are tasks and duties which must be carried out by certain organizations. Revolutionary vigilance is a specific task currently underway as a practical way of achieving consolidation and organization, and as a way of gaining experience in order to contribute to the development of the country's defense. There are special organizations; there are institutions exclusively dedicated to the country's military defense. Logically, there are limitations to the organizational development and the control of weapons distribution. Revolutionary vigilance is a very important task currently being carried out on behalf of the revolution. This does not mean, however, that all those carrying out this vigilance must be unnecessarily armed. We know that there is some conflict around the two types of vigilance currently being carried out. We are resolving this conflict. It should not be thought, however, that the unarmed individual is in a weak position because at the domestic internal level, in the urban areas, which is where revolutionary vigilance is most intense, the threat of an immediate attack from urban armed groups if very weak. The existence of police units, of armed patrols, of state organizations, which are also in charge of vigilance and patrolling the area, contributes to the security of the companeros of the masses who are engaged in revolutionary vigilance. However, there might be other more in-depth motives involved. Perhaps Commander Lacayo might continue to expand on this (?interesting) topic.

[Lacayo] We would like to tell the companero that revolutionary vigilance is quickly becoming a generalized experience among our people and that there is no reason to believe that this vigilance must be carried out while armed. The tasks of revolutionary vigilance complement the vigilance carried out by the special organizations.

We think, however, that in a given situation, when there might not be enough weapons for everybody, we will all have the chance to defend this revolution as we did in the past, as we did during our revolutionary struggle, when we were capable of turning anything, any instrument, into a terrifying weapon for use against our enemies. We think, however, that this type of situation would exist only in the case of a general attack. All Nicaraguans, whether armed with rifles or not, have a real chance to defend themselves by turning any instrument into a weapon. So we think that, for the time being, the vigilance experience must be consolidated. This vigilance should complement in an organized fashion the rounds that the special units make in our cities. Therefore, taken together, it will be a collective effort. This will make the enemy feel terribly harassed and cornered in our neighborhoods and communities. This will make it impossible for them to even show their heads because they will know that all residents in a given neighborhood are being vigilant out in the streets by turns, determined to convert their hands into a terrifying weapon capable of destroying any enemy, as it happened in the past.

[Question] I wish to ask Commander Lacayo the following question: This is (Francisco Martinez), of the Javier Cuadra neighborhood. I am a militiaman. Companero Commander, my question is as follows: I am worried by Companero Rene Nunez' answer when he was asked about participation in the militias and in the army. He said that participation in the militias was exclusively on a voluntary basis. I am worried for this reason: I would like to know if there has ever been the idea of establishing obligatory military service in Nicaragua so that both the bourgeoisie and the plastic kids [chicos plasticos] would be tried as deserters when they refuse to join our armed forces. That is my question.

[Lacayo] Good evening, Companero (Francisco Martinez). I really do not think that what Companero Rene said went along those lines. Rather, he was clearly saying that every truly patriotic and revolutionary Nicaraguan who wants a better future for our people has the moral duty to commit himself to the defense of this process, which belongs to all. We agree fully with you that to the extent that our process is organized, it will be necessary to establish in our country a more general and organized military service. We are currently studying this possibility. We think all Nicaraguans will continue to participate in defense tasks. They are already doing this along other organizational paths.

Regarding the so-called plastic kids, we agree with you that the revolutionary laws are completely fair. They are completely firm and establish no privileges for anyone. If called to serve, these gentlemen will have to participate in the defense even if this is very hard on their consciences. However, if they disobey, they will be firmly punished. Our revolution's position will be very just.

BRIEFS

FRENCH WHEAT DONATION -- Paul Faure, French ambassador to Nicaragua, delivered 2,500 quintals of wheat to Nicaragua at the port of Corinto this afternoon. (Alberto Callejas), acting minister of the International Reconstruction Fund; Dionisio Marenco, domestic trade minister; (Alvaro Miranda), director of economic relations at the Foreign Ministry; and (Nadine de Cardenal), director of foreign cooperation with Western Europe at the Foreign Ministry, attended the ceremony. [Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Oct 81 PA]

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR -- The new Venezuelan ambassador to Nicaragua, Jose Rafael Zapata Luigi, has presented his credentials to Nicaraguan junta member Dr Rafael Cordova Rivas. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Oct 81 PA]

LAOTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIPASEUT VISITS COUNTRY

Reception Honoring Sipaseut

FL101453 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Oct 81

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party [PCC] Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended a reception in honor of Phoun Sipaseut, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Politburo, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Other members of the PCC Politburo and Central Committee, as well as members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country, also attended the reception.

Cooperation Plan

PA120245 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Oct 81

[Text] The Cuban and Lao Foreign Ministries signed a cooperation plan for 1981-85 here in Havana. The document was signed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and by Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister of Laos. Sipaseut is currently visiting in our country.

The two ministries promised to exchange information on the major topics of mutual interest as well as on the development and prospects of the national liberation struggle, social progress and peace. They will also exchange information on matters related to the Nonaligned Movement, the situation in Latin America and Asia, the development of bilateral relations and other aspects of mutual interest.

Communique on Visit

FL132244 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 13 Oct 81

[Text] Havana, 13 Oct (CANA-REUTER) -- Cuba and Laos today condemned the U.S. Government's decision to increase strategic arms production and urged other nations to express similar opposition. The condemnation was made in a joint communique published after a 5-day official visit to Cuba by Laotian Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut.

The communique said both countries agreed that "the aggressive policies of imperialist forces, principally of the new U.S. administration, have complicated the world situation in an effort to disturb the process of detente."

Cuba and Laos "energetically condemn the North American government's decision to increase massive production of new arms, including the neutron bomb, for the extermination of humanity, and call on all the peoples of the world to express their repudiation," it said. The communique added that relations between Cuba and Laos were strengthening every day and that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Mr Sipaseut had agreed fully on all topics raised in their talks.